Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS Duma Election Report 24 Oct

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[FBIS Media Note] ***This is the sixth in a weekly series of reports that FBIS will produce on the campaign for the 17 December Russian Duma elections. It is base solely on Russian media reporting.***

Recent Developments

Forty-Three Parties, Blocs Beat Signature Deadline
Forty-three parties and blocs have submitted the required 200,000 signatures supporting their party lists by the 22 October deadline (INTERFAX, 23 October). The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) has ten days to verify the lists, 25 of which flooded into the commission's offices on the last day of registration. CEC Chairman Nikolay Ryabov warned that "some" of the parties that have submitted lists "may not be registered" because of discrepancies with their signatures. Out of the 69 parties and blocs that had registered their lists of candidates to the CEC, 26 failed to gather enough signatures by the deadline.

The CEC has certified the signatures of eight parties so far—the CPRF (Communist Party of the Russian Federation), the Congress of Russian Communities (KRO), the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), Women of Russia, the Agrarian Party of Russia (APR), the Bloc of Ivan Rybkin, Russia is Our Home (NDR), and the Union of Labor and Industrialists of Russia.

Signature lists were also submitted by the Independent Bloc, the Party of Beer Lovers, Derzhava, Bloc of Tikhonov-Tupolev-Tikhonov, Forward Russia, Common Cause, Bloc of Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko, Party of Workers' Self-Government, Yabloko, the People's Union, For the Motherland, Landmark Generation, Russia's Democratic Choice-United Democrats, Social Democrats, National-Republican Party of Russia, Kedr, My Fatherland, Power to the People, Russian Municipal Workers' Union, Party of Economic Freedom, Nur, Bloc of Stanislav Govorukhin, Stable Russia, 89, Movement of All Nations of Russia, All-Russia Transport Workers Movement, Christian-Democratic Union of Russia, Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES), Union of Pensioners, Communists-Working Russia-for the Soviet Union, Duma 96, International Union, Union of Patriots, Transformation of the Fatherland, National Salvation Front.

CEC Secretary Aleksandr Veshnyakov said that the 22 October deadline also applies for candidates in single-seat constituencies, but that the CEC has until 27 October to check their signature lists. Veshnyakov added that preliminary estimates indicate that each district will have an average of ten candidates (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, 24 October).

Yeltsin's Comments Draw Fire From Communists
President Boris Yeltsin's call for a "propaganda campaign" against communists made at his 19 October Kremlin press conference (RTV, ORT, 19 October) has sparked a torrent of criticism from CPRF leaders and their potential allies and the threat of a lawsuit against the president.

- In an official statement, the CPRF's Central Executive Committee accused Yeltsin of making "a direct threat" against the party's half million members and the "two million [Russian] citizens who have supported the CPRF with their signatures." The statement also said that Yeltsin's "malicious attacks" against communists "gave a signal" to "all really extremist forces" that they would be given a "free hand" to "fight" against communists (SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, 21 October). The CPRF also announced that it is preparing to file a suit against Yeltsin to "protect" the party's "honor and dignity" (ITAR-TASS, 20 October; INTERFAX, 23 October).
- Agrarian Party leader Mikhail Lapshin asserted that Yeltsin's "directive" may "spark" a "witch-hunt" and "persecution" of communists and their allies and "fuel civil confrontation during the uneasy period of intensified electioneering" (PRAVDA, 21 October).
- Power to the People! leader and former Soviet Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov declared that Yeltsin is "clearly standing on...the side of the Russia Is Our Home government bloc and the blocs of Rybkin, Yavlinskiy, and Skokov and has rounded on the left-wing forces in unacceptable tones. In this way he has practically divided society in two" (PRAVDA, 24 October).

CEC Chairman Ryabov and Duma Chairman Rybkin defended Yeltsin's statements. CPRF leader Zyuganov issued a surprisingly muted response.

- Ryabov told INTERFAX (23 October) that Yeltsin's comments "did not violate" Russia's election law and that the CEC "has not received complaints" from the CPRF. He asserted that Yeltsin "is not subject to the article of the law on elections which prohibits federal bodies of power and their employees from campaigning for or against candidates to parliament or electoral blocs" because the president is "not a body of federal power or an employee of such a body but

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the head of state and the representative of the entire people."

- Although he did not endorse or criticize Yeltsin's call for a "campaign" against the communists at a 23 October press conference, Rybkin echoed Yeltsin's diatribe against "extremists," saying that "extremists" and "maximalists" should be "pushed to the outskirts of political life" (ITAR-TASS, 23 October).
- INTERFAX reported that "Zyuganov himself believes" Yeltsin's statement was a "misunderstanding" (23 October).

Ryabov Warns Chernomyrdin About Campaigning CEC Chairman Ryabov urged Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to take leave from his government post during the campaign and warned him not to campaign for his NDR bloc while performing his official duties (RTV, 23 October). Ryabov said that if Chernomyrdin's "state affairs will not release him" to work on the campaign then "naturally he can and must continue to work," but he "must refrain from campaigning for the NDR." He added that if Chernomyrdin uses his government post to campaign then "we shall have to raise the question of annulling the registration" of the NDR with the Supreme Court (INTERFAX, 23 October). In response to Ryabov's statement, Chernomyrdin said "we will straighten it out and everything will be okay" (INTERFAX, 24 October).

INTERFAX Receives List of Candidates With Criminal Records INTERFAX reported on 23 October that the CEC had given it a list of 87 candidates "who were formerly tried or are currently under investigation." The LDPR tops the list with 12 people "who served criminal sentences." Derzhava is second with six candidates, some of whom were "tried several times," according to INTERFAX. The CPRF's federal list includes four candidates who have been tried, but two of them were freed under the 1994 Duma amnesty of participants in the October 1993 parliamentary revolt. Forward, Russia! has three candidates on the criminal list, and Yabloko and the APR have two each. INTERFAX did not divulge the party affiliation of the other 58 names on the list.

Although INTERFAX has not yet named any of the candidates on the list, other press sources have reported candidates' criminal activities:

- Vyacheslav Mikhaltsov, a local Ministry of Foreign Affairs official in Khabarovsk Kray and APR candidate, has been accused of abusing his office (IZVESTIYA, 24 October; see "FBIS Duma Election Report 4 October"). Mikhaltsov reportedly demanded money and favors in exchange for "passport and visa services." According to IZVESTIYA, Mikhaltsov arranged for a kickback on an interest-free loan to a local businesswoman, who reneged on the deal and was eventually murdered on her front porch. Mikhaltsov is running in the kray's Khabarovskiy Electoral District (Electoral District No. 57).
- The LDPR kicked Anatoliy Kuntsevich off its list of candidates after he was accused of carrying contraband chemical weapons, according to Ryabov (KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, 24 October).
- Another LDPR candidate, General Viktor Filatov, "categorically denied" that he had "any conflict with the law," despite being one of the 12 LDPR candidates named by the CEC on its list of criminals (INTERFAX, 24 October).

Duma Rejects Law on the Prevention Vote-Rigging KURANTY reported on 18 October that the Duma rejected a draft law "On Public Control Over the Holding of Elections and Referendums and On Openness in Summing Up Voting Results." The law, which the newspaper says would have "sharply" limited "the possibility of vote-rigging," fell four votes shy of the 225 votes needed to pass. Citing Aleksandr Sobyanin, the head of the Independent Data Analysis Group who has questioned the results of the 1993 elections, KURANTY contended that the law was opposed by factions that gained most from alleged vote juggling in 1993, including:

- The Women of Russia, which "according to expert assessments received one million votes as a gift from regional administrations" in 1993 and which "might be expecting a similarly generous gift during the upcoming elections." None of the faction's 20 Duma deputies voted in favor of the law.
- The LDPR, "in whose favor more than six million votes were juggled." Only two of the LDPR's 55 deputies supported the law.

According to Sobyanin, a large percentage of deputies from the CPRF, Russia's Choice, and Yabloko voted for the law.

In the Provinces

Yakunin Drops Out of Race Well-known Duma Deputy Gleb Yakunin has reportedly decided to remove himself from contention in Moscow City's Tushinskiy Electoral District (Electoral District No. 200) (INTERFAX, 23 October). Yakunin, a defrocked Orthodox priest who recently scuffled with hard-line nationalist deputies Nikolay Lysenko and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on the floor of the Duma, was elected on Russia's Choice's federal list in 1993 but was running as a candidate for

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Democratic Russia and Free Trade Unions led by Galina Starovoytova. The movement, however, failed to submit the required signatures before the CEC's deadline and will not be on the ballot for the 225 seats elected from party lists (INTERFAX, 24 October).

Yakunin's withdrawal leaves a hot contest between Konstantin Borovoy, the head of the Party of Economic Freedom, and hardline Duma Deputy Yuriy Vlasov. Borovoy lost a close race to Sergey Mavrodi in October 1994 to fill a vacated seat in Moscow Oblast's Mytishchinskiy Electoral District. A prominent venture capitalist, Borovoy has offered to buy out, at a discount, individuals stuck with stocks in delinquent or fraudulent investment funds, which he would then take to court (KOMMERSANT-DAILY, 5 October).

Vlasov, whose Northwestern Electoral District was redrawn and renamed, is in effect the incumbent in the new district. Although he did not appear on the candidate list for former Soviet Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov's Power to the People! party, of which he was rumored to be a founding member (ITAR-TASS, 18 July), MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI reported in its 13-20 August issue that he is actively campaigning in the district.

Many prominent parties are not fielding candidates in the race. Perhaps in deference to Yakunin, Russia's Democratic Choice and Yabloko are not running candidates in Tushinskiy, nor is NDR. The LDPR removed its candidate after he was accused of illegally carrying contraband chemical weapons (see above item).

Chechnya's Zavgayev Not Running Doku Zavgayev, the former chairman of the Chechen-Ingush Republic Supreme Soviet, has announced that he will not run as a candidate in the 17 December Duma elections. Although enough signatures have been collected to support his candidacy, he told Ekho Moskvy (20 October) that he has "refused" to register himself as a candidate. Zavgayev, who replaced Salambek Khadzhiyev as prime minister of Chechnya's Government of National Rebirth (ITAR-TASS, 24 October), was listed as the number 2 candidate on the NDR's Chechnya regional list and as the NDR candidate in Chechnya's Chechenskiy single-seat district (Electoral District No. 31) (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, 26 September).

Twenty-nine Candidates in Irkutsk's Four Districts Twenty-nine candidates in Irkutsk Oblast's four single-seat districts submitted the required number of signatures in support of their candidacies. Tulunskiy Electoral District (Electoral District No. 83) will have at most five candidates, and Irkutskiy Electoral District (Electoral District No. 82) will have as many as 10 candidates. The list of possible candidates in Irkutsk includes two Duma deputies that were on the NDR's candidate list published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on 26 September—Yuriy Ten, the district's incumbent and the NDR's candidate in Irkutsk, and Gennadiy Alekseyev, fourth on the NDR's Irkutsk regional list. Other candidates include the KRO's Valeriy Khayryuzov, a Duma aide; Power to the People's! Anton Romanov, an oblast duma deputy; the LDPR's Natalya Noskova, editor of the PRAVDA ZHIRINOVSKOVO newspaper; and Democratic Choice of Russia's Boris Artmeyev, an Irkutsk city duma deputy (SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH, 24 October).

In a poll conducted by the Irkutsk Oblast Sociological Center between 2 and 8 October, the CPRF led all parties among respondents in the Irkutskiy district with 10 percent, followed by the Party of Workers Self-Government, (8.5 percent); the NDR (7.6 percent); Yabloko, Women of Russia, and Russia's Democratic Choice (6 percent); the LDPR (3.6 percent), and the APR (3.3 percent). Despite leading the poll, the CPRF does not have a candidate since its nominee, Khayryuzov, decided to run under the KRO banner instead (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, 25 October). The Party of Workers' Self-Government's candidate in the district was not listed by SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH as one of the 10 eligible to run, and Yabloko, Women of Russia, and the APR are not fielding candidates (VOSTOCHNO-SIBIRSKAYA PRAVDA, 14 October).

Daily Reports Large Number of Candidates in Single-Seat Districts KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reported on 24 October that dozens of candidates submitted signatures in Samara, Khabarovsk, and Volgograd:

- In Samara, 31 candidates have been officially registered and 27 candidates' signature lists are still being verified in the oblast's five electoral districts. The Promyshlennyy Electoral District (Electoral District No. 152) has the highest number of candidates with 11 registered and four potential candidates (see "FBIS Duma Election Report 19 September" for an earlier report on the race in this single-seat district).
- In Khabarovsk Kray, 19 candidates are competing in Khabarovskiy Electoral District No. 57. A local electoral commissioner who was verifying signatures was apparently "astonished" to see his own name and passport information on one of the lists, as well as those of acquaintances who, he soon learned, had not signed the lists.
- In Volgograd, about 57 potential candidates have submitted signature lists in the oblast's four electoral districts. NDR is running in only two of the

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districts, as is the military, which has fielded "two colonels." The districts' electoral commissions reported that 40 percent of the oblast's contenders are independent candidates.

Nevzorov To Run in Pskov, Won't Face Sobchak's Wife Aleksandr Nevzorov, the controversial neo-Bolshevik television journalist whose "Dikoye Pole" ["Wild Field"] program airs on Public Russian Television (ORT), has announced that he will run in Pskov Oblast's Pskovskiy single-seat district No. 141. In an interview with St. Petersburg Fifth Channel TV (22 October), he said that the St. Petersburg single-seat district he currently represents in the Duma had been "hacked off and distributed among other constituencies" as a result of redistricting and thus "eliminated." Nevzorov alleged that this was "probably" done "in order to make sure that the nightmare of St. Petersburg's authorities—that Nevzorov gets elected to the State Duma—should not happen this time."

Nevzorov's announcement that he will run in Pskov contradicts an earlier report in NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA (No. 33, 7-13 September) that he would square off against St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sochak's wife Lyudmila Narusova in one of the city's single-seat districts. Narusova is listed as the number four candidate on NDR's city of St. Petersburg regional list and is the NDR candidate in St. Petersburg's Tsentralnyy single-seat district No. 211 (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, 26 September).

CEC, Kalmykia Locking Horns CEC Chairman Ryabov told staffers at a 23 October meeting that Kalmykia's electoral commission "refuses to comply" with a CEC decision "binding" it to register Vladimir Kolesnik as a candidate in the republic's Kalmyshchkiy single-seat district (Electoral District No. 14) Ryabov warned that unless the Kalmyk electoral commission abides by the CEC's instructions, the CEC "will possibly be forced" to "deprive" the Kalmyk commission of the right to perform its duties and that the election campaign in the republic "may be suspended" (ITAR-TASS, 23 October).

The CEC is also at odds with recently reelected Kalmyk President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who ran unopposed in the republic's 15 October balloting (ITAR-TASS, 15 October). Ryabov told INTERFAX (17 October) that Russian election legislation and "basic human rights" had been "grossly violated" during the republic election and that the CEC "does not recognize" its results. Responding to Ryabov's charges, Ilyumzhinov asserted that five members of the CEC who monitored the election "did not have any complaints" and that Federation Council and Duma observers "did not report any irregularities" in their checks of republic polling stations (INTERFAX, 18 October).

Ilyumzhinov has also denied charges made by General Valeriy Ochirov, the deputy head of the Control Directorate in the Yeltsin administration, that Ilyumzhinov has embezzled $3.5 million in state subsidies. Ochirov was Ilyumzhinov's main opponent in Kalmykia's 1993 presidential election (NTV, 16 October; Ekho Moskvy, 18 October; INTERFAX, 19 October; SEGODNYA, 20 October).

The Media Beat

Business Paper Details Some "Tentative" Campaign Advertising Rates The business-oriented newspaper KOMMERSANT-DAILY published an article about campaign costs in its 13 October issue that contained a table entitled "Tentative Rates of Commercial Spots in Mass Media" and claimed that the information contained in the table came from "parties' campaign headquarters." The following rates were all given in dollars:

Television (per minute)

NTV: "Itogi"—$25,000; "Namedni"—$15,000; "Mir Kino"— $10,000; "Kukly"—$8,000; "Segodnya"—$6,500

RTV: "Vesti"—$10,000-$22,000; "L-Klub"—$15,000; "Dzhentlmen-Shou"—$13,000; "Sovershenno Sekretno"—$9,000; "U Ksyushi"— $7,000

Moscow Channel: "Dobryy Vecher, Moskva"—$3,200

Radio (per minute)

"Mayak"—1,500 dollars

"Radio-1"—240 dollars

Newspapers (per line)

MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA—$6

VECHERNIY KLUB—$3

Government Paper Sets Campaign Advertising Rates The Council of Ministers' daily newspaper ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA published its campaign advertisement rates in its 21 October issue. A full-page ad costs 80 million rubles [R] (slightly less than $17,800 at the current exchange rate); a half-page ad is R42,100,000; one-third of a page costs R33,800,000; and a quarter-page ad is R22,700,000. Earlier reports indicated that the CEC has instructed state-controlled newspapers such as ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI to reserve 15 percent of their

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total print space for free campaign ads between 5 November and 15 December (see "FBIS Duma Election Report 26 September").

Campaign Advertising on Irkutsk TV and Radio a Relative Bargain According to figures published in the Irkutsk newspaper SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH (24 October), campaign spots on the oblast's main television and radio stations are very reasonably priced compared to those charged by the Moscow-based media (see the above item and "FBIS Duma Election Report 17 October" for comparison).

- The Irkutsk State Television and Radio Company is charging R450,000 (approximately $100 dollars at the current exchange rate) per minute for television campaign spots that are submitted already prepared and R500,000 per minute for television spots requiring further "technical" assistance from the station.
- The same company is charging R100,000 per minute for prepared radio spots and R300,000 for radio spots requiring further "technical" assistance.
- A full-page ad in SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH costs R15 million (slightly more than $3,300). A half-page ad is R10 million.

Published Lists of Candidates

Official candidate lists for the following parties and blocs were published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (unless noted otherwise) from 18-21 October (see the previous issues of "FBIS Duma Election Report" for lists published earlier in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA or elsewhere). Each entry below lists the party's 12 core federal list candidates in order and gives the date when the list was published. If the party's list of candidates in the single-seat districts was published, the entry notes that date as well.

Democratic Russia and Free Trade Unions [Demokraticheskaya Rossiya i Svobodniye profsoyuzy] Galina Starovoytova, Lev Ponomarev, Gleb Yakunin, Anatoliy Kochur, Valeriy Kurochkin. Unlike other parties, there are only 5 candidates listed on this party's core federal list. (Federal and single-seat lists published 18 October).

For the Motherland! [Za Rodinu!] Vladimir Polevanov, Yevgeniy Podkolzin, Vladislav Tretyak, Eduard Baltin, Frants Klintsevich, Anatoliy Gil, Boris Shumilin, Leonid Sorochan, Anatoliy Stankov, Vladimir Kostyuchenko, Khisa Bekayev, Boris Gutlin (Federal and single-seat lists published 18 October).

Education is the Future of Russia [Obrazovaniye—budushcheye Rossii] Larisa Babukh, Yevgeniy Minnibayev, Viktoriya Molodtsova, Nikolay Bondarchuk, Yevgeniy Butko, Andrey Devyatkin, Yevgeniy Dulimov, Olga Karmayeva, Vladimir Kirsanov, Aleksandr Sokolov, Leonid Surgey, Valeriy Tishkov (Federal and single-seat lists published 21 October).

National-Republican Party of Russia [Natsionalno-respublikanskaya partiya Rossii] (Single-seat list published 21 October; see "FBIS Duma Election Report 19 September" for the federal list published 7 September).

My Fatherland [Moye Otechestvo] Boris Gromov, Stanislav Shatalin, Iosif Kobzon, Viktor Mishin, Stanislav Assekritov, Aleksandr Bortsov, Andranik Migranyan, Valeriy Nikulin, Tatyana Popova, Martin Shakkum, Nikolay Shmelev, Kazbek Tsakhilov (Federal and single-seat lists published 21 October).

List of Single-Seat Electoral Districts

The list of the 225 single-seat districts for the 17 December elections was published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (22 August) and ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI (24 August). It lists each district's name and number; the total number of voters; the district's center; and other cities, towns, and rayons in the district.

Election Schedule—Key Dates

27 October: CEC completes verification of single-seat candidates' signature lists.

2 November: CEC completes verification of parties' and blocs' signature lists.

5 November: Parties and candidates can begin running campaign advertisements in state-owned federal and regional newspapers (ITAR-TASS, 20 September).

15 November-15 December: Equal and free access for airtime on state-owned federal and regional television and radio channels granted for all candidates; 30-minute blocs of free airtime from 7:00-10:00 and 18:00-23:30 to be drawn by lots.

On a Lighter Note...

Honey, You Might Want To Read The Newspaper This Morning The nomination of candidates to party lists without their knowledge has reportedly reached epic proportions. CEC Chairman Ryabov announced that 86 out of 270 Derzhava candidates had been "arbitrarily" nominated without their permission (INTERFAX, 23 October). Other parties used a similar nominating process, according to IZVESTIYA (24 October), including the Social-Democrats (74 nominees), the Party of Workers' Self-Government (37), Yabloko (19),

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and Forward, Russia! (24). ORT's "Novosti" correspondent Sergey Lomakin announced on the air on 24 October that he was surprised to see in the 18 October ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA that, unbeknownst to him, he was listed as a For the Motherland! candidate in Moscow City's Kuntsevskiy single-seat district (Electoral District No. 193).

Ryabov: Yeltsin Remarks 'Did Not Violate' Law

LD2310185195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 23 (INTERFAX) — Chairman of the Russian Central Electoral Commission Nikolay Ryabov told a briefing at the INTERFAX central office Monday that comments made by President Boris Yeltsin last week did not violate the election law.

"Russian President Boris Yeltsin is not subject to the article of the law on elections which prohibits federal bodies of power and their employees from campaigning for or against candidates to the parliament or electoral blocs," Ryabov said with regard to the statement about the inadmissibility of the Communists' victory in the coming elections made by Yeltsin last week.

Ryabov said, to back his words, that the president was not a body of federal power or an employee of such a body but was the head of state and the representative of the entire people. He said every citizen had the right to campaign against this or that candidate to parliament or any political party.

The Central Electoral Commission has not received complaints from the Communist Party of Russia, Ryabov said.

Nevertheless, Ryabov admitted that corresponding legislation was imperfect. He said: "The Central Electoral Commission yet has to clarify the situation."

Ryabov Urges Chernomyrdin To 'Take Some Leave'

LD2310184895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 23 (INTERFAX) — Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Nikolay Ryabov told reporters in the central office of the INTERFAX Agency Monday that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin should take some leave "at least for a week."

"If state affairs do not allow him to leave the post of prime minister, he cannot be engaged in election campaigning," he explained.

"It's against the law to combine these two things. Otherwise, we shall have to raise the question of annulling the registration of the Our Home is Russia movement in the Supreme Court," stated Ryabov.

Electoral Commission Registers 222 NDR Candidates

MM2510094195 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "News from the Localities" rubric: "All 222 NDR Candidates Registered"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lists of the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] movement's 222 candidates have been registered with the Central Electoral Commission [CEC].

In all the NDR has managed to collect 1.2 million signatures. However, "in order not to tax" CEC staffers, only 21 sheets of signatures have been provided containing 212,000 citizens' signatures. That was more than enough. The CEC has officially confirmed that it has not found a single falsified signature.

Under the law on elections, the NDR now wins the right to officially begin its election campaign and a special account will be opened at the Russian Savings Bank.

When the Russian Federation CEC closed at midnight on 22 October, 43 electoral associations registered during the State Duma election campaign had submitted sheets of signatures.

CEC Registers 947 Single-Seat Candidates

LD2410173495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — By Tuesday 947 candidates to the Duma were registered in single mandate districts. 273 of them were nominated by voters. The figures were reported at a Tuesday news conference by Deputy Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission [CEC] Aleksandr Ivanchenko.

He said the lists of supporting signatures will be examined by the commission in five days.

At the moment the commission is checking the lists of 35 election alliances and parties. The process should be completed by November 2 after which coalitions will draw lots to determine their place in the ballots.

Ivanchenko said several parties took the formation of lists of candidates too lightly. "In a number of cases people found out about being listed by an election coalition only from the press," he said.

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Daily Views Preliminary Results of Registration

MM2410133795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Stepovoy: "Struggle for Deputies' Seats Has Been Left by 26 Blocs and Associations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kremlin clocks had begun to chime midnight and the seal froze in the air in the hand of the registrar who was certifying the signature lists of the "Democratic Russia" movement, once a mass-based movement with influence in the country which has now decided to enter the Duma in a bloc with the free trade unions. By that time, as they calculated later, only 35,000 signatures of the stipulated 200,000 had been certified. This was perhaps the main sensation of the present election campaign. But the Democratic Russia members have no one to blame because they submitted the signatures to the Central Electoral Commission [CEC] just minutes before midnight.

Of the 69 electoral blocs and associations registered by the Russian Federation CEC, 26 have left the further struggle for deputies' seats. This became known at midnight 22 October when, according to the law, the acceptance of documents and signature sheets ended.

Last Sunday was the last day of the signature campaign and the ninth wave of documentation swept over the CEC. About 200 apparatus workers and public assistants tried to cope with this election chaos. And to pay them their due they coped very well with their work: After all, just stamping the signature sheets of one electoral bloc took about two hours.

Apart from the Democratic Russia members, another seven electoral associations failed to hand in their documents in time: The "Union of Muslims of Russia," the "Association of Lawyers of Russia," "the Land Assembly-Union of Zemstvo, Cossacks, and Orthodox-Patriotic Organizations of Russia," "Our Future" (headed by Sazha Umalatova), "the Federal Democratic Movement," "Mother Earth — Association of Invalids," and "We Serve Russia!"

The last to manage to get through the CEC "green light" with their collected signatures were representatives of the "National Salvation Front."

What lies behind the unsuccessful advance of many electoral associations still has to be investigated, but it is already clear that the abundance of blocs and the increased selectiveness of the population in determining its preference became the main reason. Collecting 200,000 signatures in their support proved beyond many electoral associations. Suffice it to say that nearly 20 blocs after registration did not turn up at the CEC at all, making up the list of "missing persons." But even among those who managed to jump onto the footplate of the last car of the departing train there are quite a few "fare-dodgers" who will be uncovered within 10 days by CEC controllers.

The main problem of this stage for the CEC has been the submission of incomplete sets of the necessary documentation: the applications from rejected candidates removed from the federal lists. In this situation at the insistence of those with the power, they have simply been removed from the lists, but here many scandals could still surface. Already it is known that many blocs simply included in their lists the names of people who are famous and have clout in the country without even notifying them. Thus the electoral bloc of invalids (the name has about 40 words in it) collected signatures "for Yuriy Nikulin" (he is first on the list) who learned of this honor only from journalists and hurried to dissociate himself from the association with which he was unfamiliar.

For various reasons the federal lists of candidates from the "Forward, Russia!" (24 candidates), "Yabloko" (19), "Party for the Working People's Self-Administration" (37), and "Social Democrats" (74) have thinned out. The record in this unique competition was set by Rutskoy's "Derzhava" movement, which dropped 86 people from its list.

Your IZVESTIYA correspondent was told by Aleksandr Veshnyakov, secretary of the CEC, that "Now there will be a careful check of the rules for mounting the election campaign. It should finish within 10 days, that is by 2 November. Only then will it be possible to sum up the final results of the candidates' registration."

Even earlier, 27 October, similar work will finish in the single-seat districts. According to preliminary figures received at the CEC, the number of contenders in the 225 districts has more than halved. Whereas by yesterday there were an average of 30 contenders for each seat, since documents were handed in there are no more than 15 candidates for each of the most highly contested seats.

CPRF, LDPR To Find 'Common Language'

MK2510095795 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Larin: "Two Shoes Make a Pair.... Did You Have Any Doubts?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If anyone had any doubts as to the spiritual proximity between the Communists and the Zhirinovskiyites, they must have been fully dispelled by a statement of Viktor Filatov, retired general and former editor of VOYENNO-ISTORICHESKIY ZHURNAL,

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who is the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] press secretary.

The general said that "a common language will be found" in districts where the Communists and his party's candidates run for parliament. Why? So that the damned democrats will not feel so comfortable. It turns out that the Zhirinovskiyites and the Leninites have never had irreconcilable differences, so their objectives are common, too. Filatov makes no bones about them: To topple the current authority, to impose a tight order, and "to prevent a capitalist reform of our country."

The distant goal of forming a possible bloc of the LDPR and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] also looks quite natural. Both parties need the former Soviet Union, even though not in order to make people's lives easier. No, an empire is a way of thinking for both tribes of "patriots." A centralized empire in the grip of "central" diktat. What will happen afterward? Even a less than vivid imagination will suggest not only "dashes for the South," but also "cars for the North" [allusions to LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's books 'A Last Dash for the South' and 'A Last Car for the North'] — for those who will let themselves be deceived, for those who will vote for such strange bedfellows.

Border Service Chief Declines To Run for Duma

MK2510063895 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed POSTFACTUM report: "Border Guards Not To Run for Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, Federal Border Service [FPS] director, does not intend to run for the State Duma in the upcoming elections. He announced yesterday that he had been offered to add his name to the list of an electoral bloc but that "upon some reflection" he turned down the offer. The FPS head did not specify which bloc had made the offer. "To run for the State Duma is a sharp turn in life for which I am not prepared yet: First I have to finish the work we have started in the FPS and then think of my reputation; my place for the time being is here," Andrey Nikolayev said. The FPS director also announced that no border guard was taking part in the campaign as a candidate. "It is not our mission to push our own people into the State Duma; it is rather to elect deputies who will uphold the interests of the state and care for its security," Nikolayev pointed out.

Ryzhkov Urges Left-Wing, National-Patriotic Cooperation

MM2410114895 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Oct 95 pp 1-2

[Comment by Nikolay Ryzhkov, leader of the "Power to the People!" electoral association, under the "Events and Comments" rubric: "Rallying in the Name of the People's Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The appeals made by the country's president at his 19 October news conference have practically unleashed total war against the electoral blocs of a communist and national-patriotic orientation.

In 1991 our compatriots elected a president so that he could become a guarantor of the Constitution and democracy and ensure the unity and accord of society. He was required to have a respectful attitude toward any party and movement operating in accordance with the Constitution. His personal preferences were supposed to remain concealed. But now he is clearly standing on one side — the side of the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] government bloc and the blocs of Rybkin, Yavlinskiy, and Skokov — and has rounded on the left-wing forces in unacceptable tones. In this way he has practically divided society in two.

Is he thinking about the consequences? How long will he be a destabilizing factor in the country, fanning animosity and an artificially ignited fire of hatred between one set of people and another? How long can we reconcile ourselves with his "unpredictability" and "eccentricity," which the mass media loyal to him talk about endlessly and effusively?

We have to be prepared for the active manipulation of public opinion. Here is an example. The situation in the country is rapidly deteriorating. But on a recent "One to One" program on Russian Public Television a representative of the NDR bloc met with my bloc colleague, Sergey Baburin, and told him some amazing things. It turns out that no one has ever lived so well in the Altay region as after the shelling of the Russian Supreme Soviet, which had only stood in the reformers' way. But I just returned from Barnaul a few days ago. The state of affairs in Altay is most serious — plants are standing idle, the peasants are doing nothing, the fall in production in the past few years is 65 percent, reserves of fuel at electric power stations are below any minimum. And at this time an NDR representative claims that Altay has never had it so good! More than enough social fuel has been accumulated there. But as for fuel oil — the opposite is true.

I receive many letters from the electorate. The extent of human grief caused by the "reforms" is simply

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indescribable. What needs to be done? The country's social and economic course must be changed radically before it is too late. But it is impossible to do this under the present government and president. The point is not that they do not seem to know what is happening, but that they do not want to, or they can no longer cope with the prevailing situation. It is still possible to implement these changes peacefully — during elections to the parliament and then during the presidential elections.

That is primarily why I call on people to vote on 17 December. The genuine will of the people must be ensured. This is not so simple because people have lost faith in the possibility of changes for the better. In order to achieve a high voter turnout coordinated work on the part of all left-wing and national-patriotic forces is needed. It is also needed to ensure the monitoring of the elections so that they are conducted honestly.

Our bloc has repeatedly extended a hand of cooperation to our allies. Taking advantage of this opportunity, once again I confirm our readiness for coordination. It is only united that we are capable of achieving success in the fight for the people's power, the power of the soviets.

Regional Activities

Daily Reports on Candidates From Moscow Oblast

MK2510073195 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by German Kukushkin: "Moscow Area Candidates"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nearly 230 candidates in Moscow Oblast already registered by the Central Electoral Commission are contesting 11 State Duma seats (according to the number of electoral districts). The following urban districts lead the oblast for the number of candidates: Istra district with 25 candidates; Mytishchi with 22; and the towns of Mytishchi, Podolsk, and Lyubertsy, each with 21 candidates. Among the contestants are directors of enterprises (more than 50 persons); members of the apparatus of parties (50 persons); civil servants (34 persons); and pensioners, aides to deputies, and the unemployed (three persons in each category).

The youngest candidate is Georgiy Chizhov, 22, a Muscovite representing the Beer Lovers Party. The oldest is Yevgeniy Volokhov, 60, also a Muscovite, nominated by the Russian Party of Motorists. Trying their luck in Moscow Oblast are the well-known politicians Sergey Yushenkov, Svetlana Savitskaya, Vladimir Lukin, and German Titov.

The leading party is the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], which has nominated 11 candidates. Ivan Rybkin's bloc and the Congress of Russian Communities have nominated 10 each, followed by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (six) and "Yabloko" (five).

Chelyabinsk LDPR Candidate Rejected After Forgery

MM2510094795 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report under the "News from the Localities" rubric: "The Falsification Did Not Work"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A case of sharp practice in the course of the election campaign has been made public in Chelyabinsk Oblast. Nikolay Moiseyev, a State Duma candidate in Kyshtymskiy Electoral District and deputy chief designer at the enterprise "Signal," backed by the oblast organization of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], has been refused registration.

The incident essentially boils down to the fact that the district electoral commission, which has received sheets of signatures from prospective deputies, decided to check their authenticity. Doubts were aroused over no more and no less than 300 sheets of signatures which had been neatly filled out by one person. On driving out to the scene, to the Kaslinskiy machine building plant, the inspectors encountered fraud: Some tenants had long since left the plant hostel yet their names appeared on the lists of voters supporting Moiseyev.

Regional Candidate Registration Detailed

MM2410152195 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Lebedev in Samara, Galina Mironova in Khabarovsk, and Igor Yemelyanov in Volgograd under the general headline: "More Competition for the State Duma Than for a Higher Educational Establishment"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

...In Samara

As of yesterday morning 31 candidate deputies had been officially registered in five gubernatorial districts, and data pertaining to another 27 applicants are being studied. The oblast center's No. 152 industrial district holds the absolute record — 11 candidates and four potential candidates. The best-known contender in Samara — Reserve General Albert Makashov — will be campaigning here. The military pensioner was one of the first people in Samara to get the minimum number of signatures for a candidate. Instead of the required 5,000 Albert

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Mikhaylovich brought 7,500 signatures to the electoral commission.

...In Khabarovsk

The people of Khabarovsk have just two seats in the Duma. Nineteen people are competing for one of them — district No. 57. [passage omitted] Observers have particularly noted that women and military personnel have emerged among candidates and contenders in Far Eastern districts.

...In Volgograd

Some 57 potential candidates have submitted lists of signatures to the electoral commission — they are competing for four Duma seats. The NDR [Russia Is Our Home] government party caused a surprise: It has placed just two fighters in the ring, while the military have also fielded two colonels. Electoral commissions have been somewhat perplexed by the influx of independent candidates — 40 percent of the total. There are depressingly few lawyers and economists.

Major blunders on the part of "Duma dreamers" have already been recorded: The director of the Kamyshin Museum was found to have over 2,000 invalid signatures, and well-wishers working for the leader of a Volgograd limited partnership collected over 3,000 false signatures.

Ryabov: Campaign in Kalmykia 'May Be Suspended'

LD2310165595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 23 Oct 95

[By Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, October 23 (ITAR-TASS) — Relations between the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and the Election Commission of Kalmykia, a constituent republic of the federation situated north-west of the Caspian Sea, are coming to a head.

The Kalmyk commission refuses to comply with a decision of the central commission, binding it to register Vladimir Kolesnik as a candidate to the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) in a "first-passed-the-post" constituency in the republic, chairman of the Central Election Commission Nikolay Ryabov informed the central commission's staffers who gathered for a working meeting on Monday.

Kolesnik lodged a complaint with the central commission against a refusal by the Kalmyk commission to register him as a candidate in a one-seat constituency. The central commission's meeting found out violations by the Kalmyk commission of a procedure of taking a decision on the refusal.

After checking circumstances of the case, the central commission made it binding on the Kalmyk commission to register the candidate in a "first-passed-the-post" constituency.

Ryabov reported today that the Kalmyk commission detected "exceeding of powers" in the central commission's decision. According to the chairman, if the situation is not settled in a routine way, the central commission will possibly be forced to deprive the Kalmyk commission of its right to perform duties of a commission.

In other words, Ryabov emphasised, the election campaign in Kalmykia may be suspended.

It was reported at the meeting that eight election blocs and associations were unable to submit required documents to register candidates by midnight on Sunday, the deadline announced long ago.

It was noted that some refused to take a written refusal to accept documents from the central commission, while others, evidently overwhelmed by emotions, immediately damaged an issued document.

Ryabov pointed to the queer behaviour of these, now former, participants in the election race, since, according to the chairman, plaintiffs should have official documents to challenge the central commission's decision in court of law.

A member of the central commission who was present at the meeting, remarked that some people already demanded today to issue them these documents.

Yakunin Withdraws From Tushino Constituency

LD2310225495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1938 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 23 (INTERFAX) — Co-Chairman of the Democratic Russia movement, State Duma deputy Gleb Yakunin today notified the electoral commission of the Tushino constituency, Moscow, that he will not run for parliament from this constituency.

"Democratic Russia also notified the commission that it was withdrawing Gleb Yakunin's candidacy," Secretary of the Tushino constituency's electoral commission Svetlana Zamarenova told INTERFAX.

Earlier, the apparatus of the Party of Economic Freedom leader Konstantin Borovoy told INTERFAX that the signatures supporting Yakunin and submitted to the commission failed to come through the verification

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procedure. Yakunin was to contend Borovoy for the Tushino constituency.

Zamarenova confirmed that the verification of signatures had taken place. However, she declined to announce the results of the verification saying that "the candidate withdrew his candidacy himself."

Forecasts & Commentary

Gaydar Interviewed on Elections, Political Issues

BR2310154595 Madrid ABC in Spanish 22 Oct 95 p 42

[Interview with Yegor Gaydar, Leader of Russia's Choice, by Juan Cierco in Moscow; date not given: "A Great Victory for the Communist Nationalists in December Would Put and End to Yeltsin and the State" — first paragraph is ABC introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] He was the father of the now much reviled "shock therapy." He was responsible for the meteoric transition to the market economy. He was Boris Yeltsin's right hand man after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. The Russian president then clipped his wings and Yegor Gaydar decided to go it alone. Today, leader of Russia's Choice, he aspires to win a representation worthy of the Duma at the elections in December, although his main challenge is for the democratic forces to obtain enough seats to stop the radicals — not an easy task.

[Cierco] What is your prognosis for Russia if the Communist nationalists win a major victory in the December elections?

[Gaydar] They have limited room for maneuver. First of all, they would submit a motion of censure against the government. Later, they would try to dismiss the head of state. Lastly, they would denounce the agreement between Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine that put an end to the USSR in 1991, and would declare the existence of our neighboring states illegal, as well as the borders separating us from them.

Ration Books

[Cierco] And what if they also win the presidential elections in June 1996?

[Gaydar] I do not believe that they could then re-establish the former Soviet regime. However, their election promises would push things toward a situation of economic disorder as long as neither the Socialist system nor the market economy function. I do not think the people will like this. It is one thing for the Russians to complain about the life they lead now. They have reasons for doing so. It is something else to give them ration books and make them wait in lines again.

[Cierco] Gennadiy Zyuganov says he is prepared to encourage foreign investment in Russia. Is that just doubletalk or does it mean that the Russian Communists have started to evolve?

[Gaydar] Politicians should be judged for what they do, not what they say. I do not think that Mikhail Gorbachev tried to put an end to the USSR and Socialism — quite the opposite. However, he did attack the foundation, and the building came crashing down on him. The same thing will happen to the Communists. Their promises to improve the situation of pensioners and soldiers will force them to start up the money-printing machine, with the ensuing demand for foreign currency and the destabilization of the financial market. Then they would freeze the price of the ruble, they would liquidate the currency market, set prices in the face of spiraling inflation, cause a deficit, and would have no other solution but to return to ration books.

[Cierco] With the crime and corruption in the country, can reforms be successfully carried out without employing extraordinary measures?

[Gaydar] Extraordinary measures have never given good results in the fight against corruption. Military dictatorships are an example of this. In Russia, the state still takes care of many things that are not its task. Our civil servants distribute resources, privileges, subsidies, and investments as the fancy takes them. We do not need extraordinary measures, but laws which liberate us from corruption.

[Cierco] Faced with the danger of the Communist and nationalists coming to power, would there be any justification in postponing or canceling the presidential elections in June?

[Gaydar] No. That would not be justified. It is illusory to think that the president could do something like that. He simply could not do it. Not only would such a decision be unconstitutional and very unpopular, but it would be totally dependent on support from coercive structures (e.g., the Defense Ministry, Interior Ministry, and security forces) and nobody can guarantee this support in Russia. Yeltsin would be committing suicide if he canceled the elections. Therefore, no matter how disagreeable and painful it might be for us if the Communists and nationalists came to power, the presidential elections must be held.

[Cierco] Do you think that there is a danger of a military coup in Russia?

[Gaydar] After the beginning of the war in Chechnya, I had serious questions about such a threat. Generally speaking, I have never thought that this possibility would ever come true. However, the war in Chechnya

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forces us to be careful, and not to forget that we are living in a country under the threat of a military coup.

[Cierco] What chance does Russia's Choice have at the December elections?

[Gaydar] I would not like to make any predictions as I did in 1993. I am only certain that we will exceed the 5-percent mark and become a group in the Duma (the lower house of the Russian parliament). However, in my mind the main issue lies in whether we in the democratic forces manage to get the number of seats required to be able to veto dangerous decisions. The most important thing is to ensure that the coalition of Communists, nationalists, and farmers does not obtain the 226 seats (out of a total of 450) needed for an absolute majority.

The "Kozyrev Affair"

[Cierco] Do you think that there will be changes in Russia's foreign policy after the announcement, which was denied 24 hours later, that Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is to be dismissed?

[Gaydar] There have been changes in Russia's foreign policy under way since December 1993. I think that Russian diplomacy must first of all defend Russia's national interests, which is logical. However, it is something else when the defense of national interests degenerates into a new spiral of confrontation with the West. A turn in this direction would be totally unnecessary and dangerous for Russia.

[Cierco] Do you think that Russia is a democratic country?

[Gaydar] Russia today is a young, misshapen, and unstable democracy, but it is a democracy at the end of the day. This is the longest-lasting democracy in Russia's entire history, and while we may not yet like the look of it, we must keep it if we want to live with dignity in the future.

Grachev Comments on Gusev, Army's Election Role

LD2310212495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1726 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Studio interview with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev by moderator Nikolay Svanidze; date not given; from the "Details" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text]

[Svanidze] Hello. I can of course tell you that in the current difficult political situation, etc, the Army plays a big role, or that in this election campaign the military is taking an active part, and all this would be the truth. But I won't do that inasmuch as there is no need to justify the defense minister's appearance in the television studio: with him there is always something to talk about. [Video shows Grachev sitting next to Svanidze]

Pavel Sergeyevich, your meeting with your namesake Gusev, the editor-in-chief of MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, was sensational. Well, I don't know, I should probably congratulate you on the fact that your main critics have made up with you or you with them. Tell us how all this has happened because this came completely out of the blue for everyone.

[Grachev] Thank you for the congratulations. Well, the point is I had no disagreements with Pavel Nikolayevich Gusev. I have tried to take a calm attitude to the fact that a stream of criticism has been levelled at me with particular spitefulness over the past year because I believed and believe that time will make its own adjustments and when, after all kinds of journalistic and other investigations, it became clear that the defense minister is neither a thief nor a murderer but in principle a normal person, and Pavel Nikolayevich had satisfied himself of this, he himself met me halfway and proposed that we should meet and discuss all our past problems and plan our cooperation, our work for the future.

[Svanidze] By the time that you met in the television studio, did you already know that on the whole he would utter some words which could be interpreted as an apology to you?

[Grachev] No, I did not think that Pavel Nikolayevich would utter these words of apology so quickly. For me, they were to a certain extent unexpected, even though I had met him a day before our conversation and understood from his words that Pavel Nikolayevich wished to make such a gesture to meet me halfway, an apology as it were. But I did not expect it to be like that.

[Svanidze] Had you already shaken hands before the broadcast?

[Grachev] Yes, unofficially yes, but officially during the broadcast.

[Svanidze] Are you going to the court hearing with Vadim Poegli the day after tomorrow?

[Grachev] Absolutely.

[Svanidze] And what kind of a trial will this be now? You now are, as it were, on terms of friendship with Pavel Gusev and you are in litigation with his staff member.

[Grachev] Perhaps it is still too early to call it friendship. For the time being we have only become acquainted and

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have decided to act — and as he said at the end of the broadcast, to the benefit of the army and us. This is a matter for the future. But for me, to me as a person, it seems sufficient that on behalf both of Poegli and on his own behalf, he apologized to the people. And...

[Svanidze, interrupting] To you?

[Grachev] Yes, yes, to me. And of course, what judgement the court will pronounce, this is of course a matter only for the judge, even though, evidently, I will not now be insisting on a harsh punishment for the author of this article.

[Svanidze] What I really wanted to talk to you about, Pavel Sergeyevich, is the army's participation in the elections.

[Grachev] This is a very good topic.

[Svanidze] Some time ago, you said the army would actively participate in the parliamentary elections. Can you tell us what that means?

[Grachev] Indeed, that was what I said. First reports on the number of deputies who have collected the necessary lists of signatures and are now standing as parliamentary candidates show that over 100 servicemen from single-seat constituencies, with support from military and labor collectives as well as with the approval of many heads of administration and other authorities in the localities, will be elected as deputies to the future State Duma.

[Svanidze] Aren't you afraid that the future Duma will remind us of a military unit?

[Grachev] Why do you think it should remind us of a military unit? So, let's recall a bit of history. I would like to say that a great number of servicemen were represented both in the 19th and 20th centuries in the two branches of power — up to 70 percent in the executive branch in tsarist Russia and in the legislative one, when the State Duma was set up after the 1905 proclamation. A great number of servicemen were involved in the work of that State Duma. As regards the military — no, I don't think so. We do not have any plans for setting up a party for war or a party of power. We are not contemplating this. The army is the instrument of the state.

[Svanidze] That means the military will not form a group in the Duma.

[Grachev] No, the military will not form a group. They will... [changes thought] it would be nice if they form a unified team to defend the interests of the army at the present stage.

[Svanidze] That means they will act together only when it comes to defending the interests of the army.

[Grachev] I mean those servicemen who have been nominated by labor and military collectives, I want to stress this again, with the approval of the leadership of the Defense Ministry and authorities in the localities. Yes, these candidates enjoy our confidence.

[Svanidze] Don't you have a feeling, Pavel Sergeyevich, that since the army is going into politics, it is getting out of control, particularly out of your control.

[Grachev] No, no, no, no. The army stays clear of politics. The army is neither creating a political party nor some kind of political movement, including the future State Duma. The army understands this clearly. Even a year ago, I could have had doubts that somewhere work was possibly being carried out to set up a new party or a new movement, or some group of generals or officers was being brought together in an organized way so as to form some kind of movement.

[Svanidze] The Union of officers exists — Terekhov?

[Grachev] They have already started forgetting about them. Well, there is no longer such... [changes thought] And Terekhov himself, I believe, has realized that his activity has only been harmful to himself, and we have not seen him so active.

[Svanidze] Pavel Sergeyevich, you personally as defense minister, do you believe that you have the army under control in the event of some extreme situation? As you know, our country is not immune to such situations.

[Grachev, smiling] What extreme situations do you have in mind?

[Svanidze] Well, any; well, let us recall October 1993.

[Grachev] Well, if in October 1993 I controlled the situation, and the army — well, we won't say whether it did a good or a bad job — fulfilled the order of supreme commander and the defense minister, it is therefore under control.

[Svanidze] Well, do you believe that the degree of control over the army is rising, falling, or staying at the same level if one takes, say, the past couple of years?

[Grachev] No, the degree of control over the army is far higher. The point is that in virtually all army structures, fairly energetic commanders have appeared, already with a new outlook — in many cases, commanders who hold the same views as do I, have appeared in high posts.

[Svanidze] And who are your proteges?

[Grachev] Well, sort of proteges.

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[Svanidze] Well, people promoted by you?

[Grachev] Well, if you like to call them that, proteges, let it be proteges. Yes, people promoted by me. The point is that I do not see anything disgraceful when a commander, a chief, picks his own team because he has to work with them; and of course, he will rely on those people whom he knows well.

[Svanidze] Thank you, Pavel Sergeyevich. Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev was in the studio. All the best!

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CIS Interior Officials Praise Law Enforcement Cooperation

LD2410210095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2038 GMT 24 Oct 95

[By Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN October 24 (Itar-Tass) — Relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan are almost being normalised, and this is promoted by the arrival of an Azeri delegation in Yerevan, the first one over many years. This is how relations between two transcaucasian republics and, specifically, interaction of their law enforcement bodies, were assessed by Kurban Mamedov, Azerbaijan's deputy interior minister. He arrived for a meeting of heads of the interior ministries of the CIS countries which opened here on Tuesday.

This is a meeting of professionals, Mamedov told Itar-tass. Asked if this is the beginning of cooperation between the Armenian and Azeri Foreign Ministries, Mamedov said that "in the long run this will be achieved."

Georgian Deputy Interior Minister Dzhemal Gakhokidze positively assessed Georgian cooperation with Armenian law enforcement bodies. Being neighbours we are interested in concord on combatting crime, he said. An agreement between the Armenian and Georgian interior ministries will be signed at the Yerevan meeting, Gakhokidze said. He believes the document specifies actions of law enforcement bodies of the two countries in combatting crime and will help create common mechanisms for coping with crime.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 25 October

LD2510091195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0726 GMT 25 Oct 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (Itar-Tass) — Results of the Russian president's visit to the United States is the main topic of today's leading Russian newspapers. Under the title "Tremendous success with unclear results. Yeltsin proclaims partnership with America for centuries", the Izvestiya newspaper features an article dealing with the results of the president's trip to the U.S.

The daily writes that the Yeltsin-Clinton summit turned to be, despite all forecasts, "the most friendly" of all the previous ones from the viewpoint of the Russian president. Its main result is an understanding to cooperate in Bosnia.

The newspaper notes that Russia's full-fledged participation in a Bosnian settlement can become a turning point in relations between the two powers. Yeltsin understands the danger of anti-Western bragging and took considerable efforts to bring it to naught.

However, he is a captive of limited information, the daily writes, screened for him by his aides. Hence, great fluctuations in his views. The tete-a-tete conversation with Clinton helped Yeltsin to see the U.S. stand on Bosnia in a new and unbiased way.

The newspaper notes that the president has never been so blunt about the value of bilateral relations: "Our partnership is very strong. Our partnership will last not one year or a decade but centuries". These words are addressed more to Russia rather than America, Izvestiya notes.

Izvestiya runs several articles on the coming general elections. They deal with scandals which started when the Central Electoral Commission began checking signatures of voters.

These articles are entitled "Robbery of data bank in favour of Christians", "The case of Academician Kuntsevich opens season of pre-election scandals" and "Izvestiya article blocked road to parliament".

The Rossiyskaya Gazeta newspaper writes that the Finance Ministry held a news conference on floating the second series of a saving loan's bonds, starting from October 27.

The daily writes in the article "Our wealth will increase by floating bonds" that the results of floating the first series of a new type of state securities intended for population, have turned to be very successful.

Therefore, the Finance Ministry decided to raise by five percent the interest rate for the first coupon of the second series bonds.

Rossiyskaya Gazeta claims in the first part of the essay "One can see far away from Kamchatka": "Our eastern neighbours want to lay hands on the Kurile Islands due to the fact that the small fry of virtually all Kamchatka fishes grow there, and migration routes of Kamchatka salmon also lie there."

Describing peculiar features of the economic situation on the Kamchatka Peninsula, the newspaper draws a disquieting conclusion: the active process of reorientation of the region's economic life on Japan is now well in progress. Even local peddlers stopped trading in Russia.

The Rossiyskiye Vesti newspaper writes that the remains of Captain Donem, a U.S. pilot who performed a reconnaissance flight over the Soviet territory in the early 1950s and who was downed, were buried at a Washington cemetery last August.

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The daily notes that this is one of numerous examples showing the work of the commission at the Russian president on prisoners of war, interned and missing people. The newspaper describes the work of this commission.

In an interview with Rossiyskiye Vesti on integration of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Russian vice-premier Aleksey Bolshakov describes what was done after the conclusion of the treaty on the economic alliance.

The newspaper describes a scandal connected with the Slavyanskaya Hotel. The daily believes that the conduct of the Moscow government during the sale of this hotel can scare away foreign investors.

The Pravda newspaper carries an interview with leader of the Agrarian Party of Russia Mikhail Lapshin, raising problems of the agro-industrial complex and the election campaign.

The army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda front-pages an article on problems of conscription and preparation of young men for service at the armed forces. The daily puts the following question: "Is it only the army that is interested in views which are entertained now by young people?"

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Panel Has Leads on U.S. MIA's, Data on Defectors

MM2410194995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Sergey Ovsiyenko: "The Fate of American MIA's Is Cleared Up. The Russian Federation President's Commission for POW's, Internees, and MIA's Uncovers the Secrets of the Cold War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The remains of Captain Donem [name as transliterated], a B-29 pilot shot down over USSR territory 43 years ago, were buried in August in Washington's Arlington cemetery. The American press described this funeral as the burial of the Cold War. It has, it must be said, every justification for this claim. In those days the former World War II allies had moved to open confrontation, which only came to an end in recent times. And like any other war, the Cold War had its stages — the pre-Korean stage, the Korean stage, the Vietnam stage, and the final stage, which ended in our own times.

The B-29 plane piloted by Capt. Donem had been carrying out a reconnaissance flight over the Soviet Far East in the region of the island of Yuriy. A fighter plane of ours took to the skies to intercept it....

In those days, in the early fifties, such flights were virtually the norm for "contact" between the two great powers.

"In the pre-Korean period of the Cold War, 10 U.S. Air Force planes were shot down over Soviet territory, and we lost 14 over U.S. bases," Sergey Osipov, senior secretary of the Russian Federation President's Commission for Prisoners of War, Internees, and Servicemen Missing in Action, says.

The world climate has thawed. Russia is trying to meet America half way — it is giving the United States information about the American servicemen lost in these incidents. The majority of the crew members of reconnaissance aircraft shot down over the USSR were killed. But the remains of those who were buried secretly (among them Capt. Donem) have been handed over to the American side. In October the Commission (called the Volkogonov Commission from the name of its leader) is organizing an expedition to the Far East. According to certain information, five Americans were treated in one of our military hospitals in those years, one of whom died.

"If this information is confirmed, it will not be difficult to establish the American's name from DNA tests, for the American side has given us information on the U.S. servicemen who were killed or went missing in action in that notorious period of history."

In return the United States has provided the Russian side with information about eight of the 14 Soviet TU-16 crews shot down over U.S. bases. The fate of the remainder will be established as a result of a joint search.

The confrontation between the two countries was not limited to incidents in the skies. Soviet submarines, including nuclear submarines, were on combat alert in the immediate vicinity of the United States' maritime borders. The Americans in their turn did not lag behind in this respect.

One of our nuclear submarines was sunk near the United States' Pacific seaboard in 1968. Six years later, the U.S. Navy managed to reach the submarine, which had sunk to the sea floor, and raised the remains of six Soviet seamen and buried them according to seafaring tradition. Now all the CIA's documents on this secret operation of 20 years ago has been handed over to the Russian side.

Proceeding with the historical record further, let us dwell on the Korean stage of the Cold War. The USSR's interests in this period were "represented" by the 64th aviation corps. The commission, drawing on formerly top secret documents, has established the places where around 1,300 U.S. aircraft that were shot down fell to earth and the fate of their pilots. Study of the records of the interrogation of the pilots of the "flying fortresses" helped to trace their subsequent captivity in North Korea. This huge factual material was handed to U.S. representatives by the commission. True, they do not rule out the possibility that North Korea transferred the American pilots to the USSR. But the Russian side can neither confirm nor refute this possibility.

The Americans conjecture that their servicemen who were taken prisoner during the years of the Vietnam War were also secretly conveyed to the Soviet Union. The Volkogonov commission has information on between seven and nine GI's who deserted their units stationed on Japanese territory and defected to our country.

The Russian side's openness and sincerity is smoothing the way to establishing the fate of the servicemen who went missing in action. With our help it has been established that 1,205 American soldiers and officers were in Vietnamese prisons in those years. The Americans, understanding our desire to cooperate honorably, are responding in kind. The U.S. ambassador in Pakistan has taken certain steps to ascertain the fate of the crew of the Russian aircraft detained in Kandahar by the "Taleban" organization.

In just over three years the Russian-American joint commission has completed a huge amount of work:

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Through joint efforts the fate of more than 23,000 Americans who found themselves in the USSR in the years of World War II and of around 300 Soviet soldiers who went missing in action in Afghanistan has been discovered. Our colleagues from the United States have helped to establish the fate of 68,000 of our fellow countrymen who found themselves in the U.S.-occupied zone of Germany after the war.

Bosnia 'Breakthrough' Makes Summit 'Highly Productive'

MM2410195895 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Ilya Baranikas: "Unexpected Breakthrough"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York — The eighth summit meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton to date brought a surprise not only to journalists, who collectively predicted that it would be unproductive, but, it seems, even to the two presidents' closest advisers, who warned the public not to expect any breakthroughs in Russian-U.S. relations.

Nevertheless, there was a breakthrough. Yeltsin and Clinton announced at the end of their meeting that they had reached full agreement on the major vexed question — the sending of troops to Bosnia to ensure the implementation of the peace agreement. The underlying disagreement lay in the fact that the United Streets is in agreement with placing its troops only under the command of NATO, but this option does not appeal to Russia. A compromise had to be found urgently. It has been found. The presidents spoke of it very sparingly, in the most general outlines, saying that the details of the accord would be hammered out by the two countries' military leaders. From sources close to the two heads of state it is known that Russia has agreed (Boris Yeltsin spoke of this even before his arrival in the United States, while in Paris) to send its troops to Bosnia, and the United States has accepted an option whereby the Russian troops will act outside the NATO contingent.

...The list of difficult problems in relations between the United States and Russia is naturally not exhausted by Bosnia alone. Russia is concerned by NATO's plans to expand eastward, and America by the sale of Russian nuclear reactors to Iran. In less than half a day the presidents were unable to cut through all the Gordian knots that hamper the bonds between the two largest states, each of which has its own interests and its own approaches to the problems. But even the single breakthrough achieved during the two leaders' brief meeting is sufficient for us to be able to speak about it as having been highly productive.

'Clownish' Yeltsin's Conduct Assessed, Scored

MM2410130695 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Yevgeniy Popov: "To UN Celebrations in New York Via Paris. Yeltsin Given Back Portrait..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting between Clinton and Yeltsin within the framework of the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations was scheduled for 23 October at Hyde Park, the former mansion of the great U.S. president, Franklin Roosevelt, who along with Iosif Stalin and Winston Churchill was the founding father of the United Nations. The day before, the heads of 165 states who had come to New York for the anniversary celebrations were photographed for posterity in the conference room, and around one-third of them was able to deliver a brief five-minute speech from the UN rostrum on the first day of the anniversary session.

Greeting participants in the anniversary session, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali was forced to acknowledge that the international organization on which great hopes were pinned is experiencing an acute crisis of confidence along with a financial crisis as a result of which the United Nations is on the verge of bankruptcy. Other speakers also mentioned the profound conflicts and serious problems in UN activity. Thus, Fidel Castro described the United Nations in its present form as a new means of political pressure for rich, powerful countries, a tool of imperialist policy. The Cuban leader expressed perplexity at the fact that in 50 years no steps have been taken to democratize the activity of the United Nations and that no Latin American country is represented on the Security Council, nor has a seat been found for India with its population of almost 1 billion. Nor is there a single African country on the Security Council, which could probably be explained in 1945 when only four African states were UN members but is quite incomprehensible now when there are over 50 of them.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, who opened the debate at the anniversary session, loftily described the United Nations as the "main line of defense for the forces of good in their fight against evil." He even ranked the barbarous U.S.-NATO bombing of Serb positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina among the examples of the "defensive action taken by the forces of good."

In his speech at the anniversary session, Yeltsin voiced a different opinion of the activity of UN forces in the Balkans. The Russian president criticized the UN Secretariat for circumventing the authority of the Security Council and enabling a regional military organization

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of Western countries — NATO — to wage combat operations against one of the sides in the Bosnian conflict. This "protest" did not, however, sound too convincing because Russia has not exercised its rights as a permanent member of the Security Council and has sanctioned a whole series of anti-Serb resolutions. They have brought about the NATO intervention that cannot in any circumstances be called peacemaking.

There is every indication that the U.S. side takes an understanding view of Yeltsin's "tough" rhetoric, seeing it as just an attempt to make the best of a bad job. And some analysts are drawing a historical parallel in the assumption that Clinton had an ulterior motive in inviting Yeltsin for talks at Hyde Park, where Winston Churchill was a guest after World War II and was paid pointedly courteous attention — in order to sweeten a fairly bitter pill: Because during the war the United States dramatically reinforced its positions as a great power whereas Britain lost its status of great colonial power and ruler of the seas. As for Clinton's kindness toward Yeltsin for his "commitment to democratic reforms," it has a fairly specific nature. BBC Radio reported that Clinton had prepared for "friend Boris" a gift "which will hardly delight the Russian president." An operation had been carried out with the help of CIA specialists, which could be called in the spirit of the old tango: "I return your portrait...." This was a computer operation and the returned portrait is a so-called virtual portrait. Programmers describe as virtual memory, a system of stored memories organized in such a way that it can be regarded as one large internal memory. In simple terms, a computer memory has been provided with all the information on Yeltsin that U.S. intelligence has at its disposal, as well as press reports, television footage, and testimony provided by people who know the Russian president well. A computer double has been obtained. Unlike the real prototype, however, it is unable to present appearance as reality. A computer memory is merciless and nothing can be erased from it: Neither the inspired conducting of the Berlin band, for instance, the clumsy banging on the table during the queen of England's reception, nor even such a trivial matter as his frivolous treatment of the Kremlin secretaries. The computer profile also included the latest news conference held prior to departure for France and the United States for a chosen group of journalists, which a British radio commentator described as "shocking" and Yeltsin's attacks on Zyuganov and the Communists as "out of step with the Constitution."

By and large, ahead of an extremely crucial first trip abroad following his July heart attack one might have expected — in the words of the BBC commentator — "well-considered rather than shocking statements" in order to send the world a signal that the Russian leader is striving to cultivate a new, more respectable image. But quite a different signal was presented: Yeltsin is still only predictable in terms of his complete unpredictability. London's THE TIMES describes this image as "clownish."

In connection with the Russian president's patent unpredictability, the foreign press particularly signals out his embarrassment over his public criticism of Kozyrev and repudiation of the same the following morning at Sheremetyevo Airport ahead of his foreign tour. Yeltsin was shown on television approaching correspondents and "suggesting" they ask him a question: Why, he said, not ask about my view of Kozyrev and whether he is to be minister or not? The day before the Russian president had quite definitely indicated that he was not to be minister. He just asked that his former protege not be made to "toe the line" ahead of time: He said that time is needed to seek a fitting candidate. But the next morning he suddenly sharply changed his opinion and said that it can only be a question of seeking a good deputy for Kozyrev — to tackle "apparatus issues" because the minister travels a great deal and leaves his 3,000-strong collective unattended.

Is it best to sleep on things? But the same day after the ill-starred news conference Radio Liberty reported that the "United States has entered into contact with the Russian Government in order to obtain additional information about Boris Yeltsin's statement regarding his intention of replacing Foreign Minister Kozyrev." And a high-ranking U.S. State Department staffer, who wanted to remain anonymous, hinted virtually openly that Kozyrev is not part of Yeltsin's "nomenklatura" but that the people to whose nomenklatura he really belongs believe that the unsinkable Kozyrev has "nine lives" like the cat in the U.S. proverb and has by no means yet used them all up. Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker stressed that "Andrey Kozyrev is a very good negotiating partner." Baker disagreed with the claim (presumably it is no accident that it is a widespread claim) that Kozyrev is a politician in America's "pocket" and expressed the "wholehearted" hope that he would nonetheless keep his post.

The Western mass media have also disseminated other curious expert opinions. Thus, Richard Pipes, the notorious Russophobe and political scientist, when asked whether Kozyrev's foreign policy is weak, confirmed: "Of course it is weak. Because Russia is a weak country today." Pipes also claimed that "Russia has such serious internal problems that it has no right to interfere in affairs in the Balkans." As for Kozyrev, Pipes complimented him by saying "he is not a chauvinist, he refuses

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to prove that Russia is still the great power that it was before."

The bitter irony of this praise is that both Kozyrev and Yeltsin have of late been declaiming loudly and bombastically that under the democrats' rule Russia has "risen from its knees" and that it has by no means lost its great-power status in the process. But perhaps the most eloquent acid test for these claims has been the embarrassing saga of the sacking of Russia's most unpopular minister announced by Yeltsin and then revoked under pressure from "friend Bill."

That may indeed have been why the CIA prepared its unusual gift for the Russian president, to remind him of the real bounds of his competence!...

Relations With U.S. Said 'Worsening' Over Bosnia

LD2410200895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KAZAN, Oct 24 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — Relations between Russia and the United States are on the verge of worsening, the honorary director of the Institute for the United States and Canada, Academician Georgiy Arbatov told a press conference Tuesday in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan.

Arbatov took part in a month-long celebration in Tatarstan (a Russian Volga River republic) dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the United Nations the celebration ended in Tatarstan today.

Arbatov said that Russian-U.S. relations were worsening in particular because of the "deep, protracted crisis" in former Yugoslavia, "overly intensive activity of the United States for settling the Bosnian conflict under NATO's mediation," and Russia's "unclear policy towards NATO."

Arbatov said he was concerned about "Russia's hostility towards everything foreign, including everything related to the United States." He said he saw "Gaydar's reforms" as one of the key reasons for the lack of trust by Russia towards the West. He said the Gaydar reforms had appeared as "imposed by the IMF from the outside." "As a result of the reforms, the extinction of the nation and society's moral degradation have begun," Arbatov said.

Meeting in Moscow To Delay Bosnian Talks in U.S.

LD2510160295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1537 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — Leaders of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia, Slobodan Milosevic, Alija Izetbegovic and Franjo Tudjman will meet in Moscow on October 31 "under the aegis of the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday [25 October].

"The main participants in the Yugoslav crisis will meet together for the first time in Moscow launching a qualitatively new stage of the settlement, the stage of peaceful dialogue on a summit level," Karasin said.

According to the spokesman, "such a breakthrough in the process of a protracted search for a political solution of the most acute conflict has become possible due to persistent efforts of Russia, the United States, the European Union, due to cooperation of all member-states of the international Contact Group, as well as due to constructive stance, realism and responsibility displayed by leaders of the three countries on the territory of the former Yugoslavia."

"We hope that the meeting will give a powerful impetus to further talks in the United States, and supply the political process with dynamism, necessary for the soonest approach to a comprehensive and just settlement in Bosnia," Karasin said.

An ITAR-TASS New York correspondent on Wednesday cited a high-ranking official in the U.S. administration as saying that the opening of Bosnia peace talks at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio previously scheduled for October 31, will be delayed a day because of the meeting in Moscow.

Diplomat Views Changes in Russia's UN Status

LD2410183995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 24 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — The recent events in Russia, including the economic crisis, social, political and inter-ethnic conflicts, "have led to a sharp decrease in Moscow's authority and influence regarding the international situation, including in the U.N.," a high-ranking Russian diplomat said.

"Moscow's position in the U.N. is undermined primarily by the growing debt on compulsory contributions to the U.N. budget," the diplomat told INTERFAX.

"Russia has become one of the U.N.'s major debtors by the end of 1994. Russia then owed about $507 million in contributions to the U.N. regular budget and for the financing of peacekeeping operations," the diplomat said. "We are still ahead of the U.S. in the terms of the debt's size but the Russian debt continues to increase

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and to date has exceeded $550 million," the diplomat said.

However, the diplomat said Russian diplomacy had managed to considerably decrease the corresponding damage to Moscow's positions in the U.N.

"It can be regarded as serious success that Moscow has managed to reduce by several times the size of its contributions to the U.N. regular budget, the financing of peacekeeping operations, etc. In 1995 Russia's share in the U.N. regular budget totals about 5.7 percent and in the financing of peacekeeping operations about 7.1 percent," the diplomat said.

"A decision has been made to reduce Russia's contribution to the U.N. regular budget to 4.6 percent in 1996 and cut back Russia's participation in the financing of peacekeeping operations," the diplomat said.

"Russia's share in the financing of the U.N. system may be about 3 percent in 1996, taking into consideration that Russia's fails to make substantial contributions to the funding of the U.N.'s economic and humanitarian programs," the diplomat said.

"However, the reduction of Russia's payments to the U.N. decreases Russia's influence in this international organization. It happens indirectly. For instance, our requests and demands meet less active response and the quota for Russian employees' presence in the U.N. secretariat is decreasing," the diplomat said.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said during the anniversary session of the U.N. general Assembly in New York that Russia would fulfill its financial obligations towards the U.N.

Paratroopers Prepared for Bosnia Deployment

LD2510101295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — A Russian airborne division has been prepared for peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia and may be sent there if o'kayed by the United Nations and the Russian president, according to a top Russian paratrooper.

Aleksandr Chindarov, first deputy commander of airborne troops, told TASS on Wednesday [25 October] that the division is "capable of fulfilling peace-keeping tasks in any part of the globe". "The decision on its deployment is possible only upon agreement with the United Nations on the basis of a resolution of the Russian president and the Defence minister", he said.

Earlier president Boris Yeltsin said that sending a division would be too costly for Russia and that its peace-keeprs in Bosnia and Croatia may be reinforced with two regiments.

Chindarov stressed that that Russian paratroopers in the former Yugoslavia "would act under their own command and with account of collective decisions of the common leadership of the UN peacekeepers" as it was defined by the Russian president.

"The fulfilment of peace-keeping tasks in the former Yugoslavia under the NATO aegis is inappropriate for Russian units", he said.

At present two Russian battalions with a total strength of 1,500 men are deployed in Klise and Sarajevo.

200 Paratroopers Depart

LD2510093095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0715 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — An IL-76 military transport aircraft has left the military airfield of Dyagilevo near Ryazan, with 200 paratroopers belonging to the Russian peacekeeping forces. They are to replace their comrades in the town of Klise (Serb Krajina) carrying out the peacekeeping mission in their zone of responsibility. ITAR-TASS was told this today by Colonel Igor Kashin, head of the press service of the commander of the Russian Paratroop Forces

He said that in Serb Krajina, there are now 1,000 "blue helmets" from Russia. The main replacement, the 14th in the past three years, falls on the Russian battalion in Sarajevo, numbering 500 men. By 6 November, it will be replaced by contract troops with experience of service in hot spots of the CIS, including in Chechnya. The next flight to former Yugoslavia is planned for 27 October.

Reportage on Duma Speaker Rybkin's Paris Conference

Rybkin, Seguin on Cooperation, Bosnia

LD2510102395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Nikita Yermakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PARIS, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — "The events of the past few months testify to the high level of interaction between the French and Russian leaders at different levels, including the

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parliaments," Speaker of the Russian State Duma Ivan Rybkin said on Tuesday evening, replying to an ITAR-TASS question in the course of a press conference arranged here jointly with Chairman of the French National Assembly Philippe Seguin before Rybkin's departure from France. The Speaker of the Lower House of the Russian Parliament stressed that "we are eyewitnessing the rapprochement of our positions and assessments", which finds reflection in the concrete instructions issued to executors. "The parliaments of our two countries are ready to participate in such close interaction," Rybkin stressed.

Seguin added that today the Russo-French relations existed not only at parliamentary level. However, parliament members could do much to prevent the cooperation motor from idling. The large Russo-French Commission for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, set up during Rybkin's visit to France, is called upon to help remove legislative obstacles to the progressive development of bilateral relations.

Rybkin recalled that Russia stood for the creation of an all-European system of security, which could issue mandates to peace-keeping forces to intervene in the continent's hot spots. He warned against the danger of deploying NATO nuclear weapons along the Russian borders in the event of the bloc's enlargement and welcomed the French leaders' cautious attitude to the "plans of certain dashing cavalrymen from some western military staffs".

"I was glad to hear Speaker Ivan Rybkin say that it is necessary to create a single system of security in Europe, because I have stressed this myself for many years running," Philippe Seguin pointed out. "Can't Europe itself ensure its system of security? I am glad that our views coincide on this point," he added. Touching on the Bosnian issue, Seguin stressed that no long-term solution of the problems there was possible without Russia's participation. "In accordance with the orientations given us by President Jacques Chirac, we must now seek an original decision for the existing problems. Such a decision may probably be found through joint Russo-French actions within the framework of international guarantees to the peace agreements in former Yugoslavia," he stated.

"We want a strong Russia. Europe as a whole needs it," the Chairman of the French National Assembly pointed out. "I am by no means pessimistic about Russia's future," he stressed.

Says Islamic States 'Interfering' in Chechnya

LD2510100395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] RIA has just released a report on a news conference by Ivan Rybkin in Paris. According to the report, the speaker of the State Duma made a statement that can be regarded as sensational considering the visit's official nature.

Rybkin stated that operating in Chechnya are not only Chechen extremists but also essentially direct and open representatives of many states.

The speaker said, I quote RIA, that Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Palestinians are interfering in our affairs pretty blatantly. Islamic fundamentalism is interfering, the speaker stressed.

'Complex Political Situation' Curtails Visit

MM2410181095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 7

[Report by Nikolay Paklin: "It Is the Russian Political Season in Paris. Ivan Rybkin Returns to Moscow Early"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris — State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin laid a wreath at the Eternal Flame that burns beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. The Russian national anthem was heard above the Champs Elysees...

In general only heads of state and government on official visits to France are accorded this honor. However, by way of an exception the French side amended the strict parameters of state protocol. The State Duma chairman also insisted on a trip to the town of Sainte-Genevieve-des-Bois in order to lay flowers on the grave of the Russian writer Ivan Bunin.

The State Duma delegation arrived in France a day after the completion of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's working visit. The deputies, who represent a broad cross-party spectrum, are continuing the "Russian political season" in Paris. The aim of the visit is to consolidate and expand collaboration between the two countries' legislators and to exchange experience of parliamentary work. The program of the visit includes the signing of the charter of the Grand Russian-French Commission for Interparliamentary Cooperation and the holding of the first session of this commission.

It must be said that great interest is being shown in France in the Russian parliamentarians' visit. This interest is aroused by the forthcoming 17 December

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elections in Russia. The French are naturally interested in the victory chances of the various political parties and electoral blocs. The State Duma deputies have many questions to answer. They have stored up answers to by no means all of them.

In view of the complex political situation in Russia, State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin decided to terminate his visit to France "early," limiting it to two days. But members of the Duma delegation will complete the full program of work.

CIS Republics, PRC To Sign Border Accord

LD2510111495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1102 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Andrey Kirillov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — It is expected that a pentalateral agreement on confidence-building measures in the military sphere on the former Soviet-Chinese border will be signed in Shanghai in mid-November, ITAR-TASS learnt from a source at the Russian government here on Wednesday.

It is planned that Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Chinese Chairman Jiang Zemin, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev and Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov will arrive in the Chinese biggest city to sign this unique document.

The source claimed that the sides agreed, in principle, to sign this document during the days of Yeltsin's visit to China in November.

The Russian Foreign Ministry refuses for the time being to comment on a possible meeting of the five presidents to sign the agreement. At the same time, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that talks on confidence-building measures on the border were started back at Soviet-Chinese times.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, a joint delegation of four countries — Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and Tajikistan — acted as China's partner at the talks.

Russia and Kazakhstan have already signed a border agreement with China.

The border problem was especially pressing in relations between China and the Soviet Union in the 1960s when the two biggest socialist countries balanced on the verge of a major armed conflict.

A Russian expert on regional issues in Asia told ITAR-TASS that the pentalateral agreement on confidence-building measures on the border may become the first move towards creating a whole confidence-building system in the region.

"There is hope that if this document is signed by Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and Tajikistan, their example will be followed by other states," the expert added.

The Chinese side invited President Yeltsin to go to Shanghai during his visit, which is called "the show window of Chinese reforms" and where Chinese Chairman Jiang was secretary of the city committee of the Chinese Communist Party and mayor.

Yeltsin's Upcoming PRC Visit Linked to Trade Boost

LD2510104695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1002 GMT 24 Oct 95

[By Grigoriy Arslanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — The total sum of virtually used up direct foreign investments in the Chinese economy after the start of the reform totalled a staggering figure of 111.3 billion U.S. dollars. China became "a champion" among developing countries in this indicator.

ITAR-TASS learnt from a representative of the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Foreign Economic Cooperation on Wednesday that there is virtually not a single province, autonomous area or even a city in the country where foreign capital is not present.

China established 237,000 joint ventures with assistance from foreign investors, out of which 100,000 already manufacture goods.

The total value of goods, put out by joint or purely foreign enterprises, totalled 48 billion dollars last year, or 12.5 percent of all goods manufacured by Chinese industry.

The role of joint ventures in the production of exports is even more impressive. They exported 34.71 billion dollars worth of goods last year, or 28 percent of all Chinese export.

Foreign capital plays a no less important role in creating possibilities for employing multimillion redundant labour, consequently, in raising living standards of Chinese. Joint ventures where wages are several times higher than at ordinary Chinese factories and plants, employ 14 million people.

The last few years witnessed accelerated process of direct foreign investments in the Chinese economy where dominant positions were held, until now, by Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan as well as by overseas

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Chinese. The influx of "big capital" has started from Europe, America and Japan.

A representative from the foreign economic relations promotion committee told ITAR-TASS that "the wait-and-see" period has successfully passed. "Political stability, social steadiness and full guarantee of foreign investments played a decisive role in this case," he stressed.

"Foreigners" are now in the lead in the rate of investments. Transnationals which prefer to invest their capital in major projects of basic industries and the sphere of high technologies, showed higher activities among "foreigners".

The Chinese business community and representatives from Russian companies and firms in Beijing expect that the coming visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to China, during which he will visit (at a special invitation from Chinese Chairman Jiang Zemin) Shanghai, a major base of national industry, will give an impressive impetus to bilateral cooperation in mutual investments.

In their opinion, the territorial proximity of the two countries, mutual supplementation of their economies and, what's the main thing, an opportunity to use the huge scientific and technical potential of Russia as the Russian share of investments in setting up joint ventures in the Russian and Chinese territories are a good basis for this cooperation.

Moscow, Tehran Sign Overland Transportation Accord

LD2410213695 Tehran IRNA in English 2129 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Russia, Oct. 24, IRNA — A letter of understanding on overland transportation was signed between Iran and Russia here Tuesday [24 October] according to which the two countries will issue transit licences beginning 1996 to vehicles plying between two countries.

Transportation officials of the two countries in their meeting here also reviewed the ways and means for bus transport of passengers between Iran and Russia.

The next meeting of the transportation officials of the two countries is to be in Tehran in the autumn of 1996.

Iran Denies Offering Military Training to Chechens

LD2410195195 Tehran IRNA in English 1931 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct. 24, IRNA — Iranian ambassador to Moscow, Mehdi Safari, in his meeting with Russian Foreign Ministry officials here today rejected the claim that Iran had offered military training to Chechen troops in Iran. He expressed regret that the Russian president had been misinformed in that connection.

The Iranian ambassador stressed that Iran believed in territorial integrity of Russia, and that Iran considers the problem in Chechnya as being an internal problem, and it fully supports a peaceful settlement of the situation in that republic.

Boris Yeltsin has told reporters in Moscow last Thursday that Russia had miscalculated Chechen's military strength due to the fact that the Chechen forces had received military training in Iran, Turkey and occupied Palestine.

Implications of Caspian Oil Route Examined

MM2410205495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 pp 9,10

[Article by Aleksey Chichkin: "Sentenced to Oil Exports"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 9 October the transnational consortium to develop the oil resources of Azerbaijan's Caspian shelf decided that the main transit route for Azerbaijani oil would be the Russian one — along the existing Baku-Groznyy-Novorossiysk oil pipeline.

At the moment we are talking about so-called early oil. The question of the route for transporting the main volume of oil remains open. Although there is good reason to believe that it will be decided in favor of Turkey, which will be able to get at least $1 billion per year from the transit.

Back in 1992-1993 British and North American oil corporations founded transnational consortiums to extract oil on Azerbaijan's and Kazakhstan's Caspian shelf and transfer it to the developed countries. At that time the transportation route had not yet been decided. At any rate, several transportation options had been devised — through oil pipelines linking Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan with Russia, and then through its Black Sea ports, Novorossiysk and Tuapse; through the existing Baku-Tbilisi-Batumi-Poti oil pipeline (that is, through Georgian ports) and partly through a new pipeline from Georgia to Turkey's Mediterranean and Aegean ports.

As far as Azerbaijan is concerned the route via Georgia is much shorter than the one via Russia, and in view of the Turkey transit "extension," it is politically preferable. As far as Kazakhstan is concerned, the link between its shelf and the Transcaucasian oil pipeline system is much longer than the transportation of oil via Russia. Therefore they came up with yet another plan

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in 1993-1994 — along the bed of the Caspian (nearly 300 kilometers). But in order to "connect" Kazakhstan's Caspian oil to the Baku-Georgia-Turkey pipeline it is necessary to increase its throughput by more than 40 percent. A very important condition of Western oil corporations' work in the Caspian region of the CIS is that they are not entitled to sell the oil they extract in the Commonwealth countries. All of it is intended for export to the G-7 countries. Almaty, Baku, and Moscow accepted this "sentence" back in 1992.

According to the data of Russian and foreign sources, in particular the corporations involved in consortiums, Chevron (United States), British Petroleum (Britain), and Oman Oil (Oman-United States-Britain), Russian aggregate income from the transportation of Kazakhstan's and Azerbaijan's Caspian oil could be at least $5 billion per year after 1996, if the oil pipelines across its territory to Novorossiysk and Tuapse are operating at more than 70 percent capacity. Even if it is only one-fifth of this — if, that is, it is only realistic to provide transit for Azerbaijani oil — the "competitors" have something to fear.

According to OPEC and World Energy Agency assessments, the oil resources in the Caspian region are the largest in the world: Total oil stocks there exceed 25 billion tonnes, including around 13 billion tonnes in the Caspian areas of Azerbaijan ands Kazakhstan (including shelf resources). The oil resources potential of the Caspian areas of Russia (Astrakhan Oblast, Kalmykia, Dagestan, and Chechnya), including the shelf, exceeds 8 billion tonnes, according to some estimates (the remaining resources are in Turkmenistan's and Iran's Caspian areas). These figures alone show how important the Caspian region's oil resources are for the main oil exporters.

"Chechen Card" Against Chechnya

In 1994, before the start of the war in Chechnya, and in summer 1995 the corporations participating in the Caspian consortiums said they regard the Russian route as the priority one. This was also stated by the governments of Britain, the United States, Norway, and Oman. But in summer 1995 the leaders of the G-7 countries told B. Yeltsin during the meeting in Halifax (Canada): Russia must withdraw its forces from Chechnya and start direct talks with Dzh. Dudayev's regime.... "In exchange," as it were, it was hinted that Kazakhstan's and Azerbaijan's Caspian oil would pass through Russia.

Moscow accepted these terms. Nonetheless, in spring 1995, work began on the reconstruction of the existing Baku-Batumi-Poti oil pipeline and construction of a spur from southwest Georgia to Turkey. A consortium of oil and construction corporations was also set up to construct the oil pipeline to Turkey's Mediterranean and Aegean ports — it is dominated by U.S., British, Dutch, and Norwegian corporations.

Russian Foreign Ministry officials to this day are arguing about the legality of agreements between the West and Baku and Almaty on Caspian oil transit without Russia's consent. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry is demanding at the very least that Moscow should be notified of "separate" oil transit consultations between Western governments and companies and the governments of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

But the Russian Federation's action did not have the required effect. Although this is understandable since one of the "latest" conditions governing Western investments in Russia's fuel and energy sectors is unimpeded transit for Caspian oil through the territory of the CIS and the Russian Federation. But the war in Chechnya created an excuse for not transporting Caspian oil via Russia.

It is worth noting that the consortium operating in Azerbaijan offered its government a bonus of $500 million for signing a contract "in favor" of transit via Georgia and, in part, Turkey.

Meanwhile, at the talks that ended in Moscow in September between the Russian Fuel Energy Ministry and the Russian "Transneft" company and the Azerbaijan State Oil Company both sides noted that the Georgian route was not the best because the condition of the oil pipelines and port terminals was far from ideal. But, according to "Transneft" Vice President Yuriy Sikovskiy, "if Baku plumps for the 'Georgian option' we will have no problems with that and will participate in the project."

Between Chechnya And Azerbaijan

The maximum throughput capacity of Russian oil pipelines in the Caspian and Black Sea region is 15 million tonnes per year; for the Azerbaijan-Georgia and Georgia-Turkey pipelines the figure is 8 million tonnes per year altogether. But it is clear from the current economic and political scheming over Azerbaijani and Kazakhstani oil the the throughput capacity of the oil pipelines is not the chief criterion when it comes to a valid choice of route for exporting oil from Azerbaijan's and Kazakhstan's Caspian shelf.

The actual owners of the consortiums are the U.S. and British corporations, with total shareholdings of, respectively, 65 and 60 percent in the Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan "projects." So the West's ever growing interest in Caspian oil resources has a practical embodiment.

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Realizing that the situation would not be improved by specific statements and requests, the Russian Federation Government recently exempted oil exports from Chechnya to the far abroad from all duties and excise taxes. No oil-exporting region in the Russian Federation (West Siberia, Komi, Middle Volga, Bashkortostan, Adygea, Dagestan) has been granted a similar privilege.

But Chechen oil constitutes no more than 5 percent of the total volume of Russian Federation oil exports, and North Caucasus oil as a whole (oil from Chechnya, Adygea, and Dagestan) constitutes 10 percent. Therefore the privilege for Chechen oil is totally political.

According to the Russian Federation Government's decision, all Chechen oil will go to the far abroad via Novorossiysk and Tuapse. Consequently, with average annual oil extraction there — for export, then — standing at approximately 1.5 million tonnes and the average world oil price at around $100 per tonne, Chechnya's overall revenue from oil exports, minus the cost of extraction and transportation, could be $50-80 million. Unless, of course, Chechnya's hard currency revenue from exports of "its" oil are expropriated. But revenue from oil pipelines, involving practically no costs, could not only reach a comparable amount, but significantly exceed it. Turkey intends to charge more than $1 billion per year for oil transit.

So it is a good idea to hold talks on normalizing the situation in Chechnya taking the oil factor into account, or rather the actual profit Groznyy could make both from Caspian transit and from Chechen oil exports. In accordance with this option, the main ingredient of the negotiating process in Groznyy, in the context of official recognition of the Russian oil transit route from Azerbaijan, could be and in theory would be the redistribution of aggregate revenue from the transit of neighboring and from the export of local (Chechen) oil.

Is it not possible, in fact, to use the "free" export of Chechen oil and Caspian oil transit via its territory in order to rapidly halt the war there and limit the "space" for all manner of scheming by Western companies operating on the Caspian shelf?...

Turkish Oil Transit Factor

One piece of evidence of the increasing oil export blockade against Russia is the restrictions imposed in 1994 by Turkey on the passage of Russian tankers through the Bosporus, Sea of Marmara, and Dardanelles in violation of the international conventions of unlimited duration on freedom of commercial shipping in the Black Sea and Aegean region. Foreign tankers chartered by Russian companies also face sanctions! The formal excuse is that these ships tend to have "more accidents."

But in reality, when you consider Turkey's growing role on providing transit for Caspian oil from Kazakhstan and, in particular, Azerbaijan, it is a carefully thought-out, long-term strategy: To restrict exports of oil from Russia and oil export transit via Russia to the far abroad.

Actually, an accord has already been reached to the effect that part of Russia's oil exports will go by sea to the Bulgarian port of Burgas, and will then be transferred by oil pipeline the Greek port of Alexandroupolis on the Aegean Sea (this pipeline is planned to be built in 1995-1997). That is, the Black Sea-Aegean straits can be "avoided." But will this lead to an increase in sales of Russian Federation oil in the G-7 countries and to an increase in its price?..

According to OPEC and World Energy Agency assessments, as far as the oil-supplying republics of the former USSR are concerned, oil from Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan will be the most popular in the West, and by 2010 it will be oil from Uzbekistan. Hardly unsound forecasts.

"Transit" Decision Announced. For Azerbaijani Oil for the Time Being

But Western corporations are formally displaying an adherence to their previous statements and accords with Russia. For instance, the transnational consortium "operating" on Azerbaijan's Caspian shelf finally announced on 9 October its verdict on the oil transfer routes. The Russian route — through the existing oil pipeline from Azerbaijan to Novorossiysk via Chechnya — was named as the main transit route.

They announced that the route through Georgia and Turkey would be the "reserve" route, whereby it was also planned to transfer Azerbaijani oil, although a smaller volume than by the Russian option. In 1996 and probably 1997 the southern — Georgian-Turkish — oil transit route will appear in the form of the existing Baku- Tbilisi-Batumi oil pipeline with a spur to Poti. In the future an oil pipeline will be commissioned from southwest Georgia (Meskhetia) to the port of Keyhan on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, and the oil, in accordance with the southern option, will be transferred to Georgian and Turkish ports.

In support of its decision, the consortium operating in Azerbaijan referred, in particular, to the fact that the overall cost of oil transit via the North Caucasus is approximately four times cheaper ($50 million) that its transfer through Georgian and Turkey (around $200 million). In fact, no new pipelines are planned for the North Caucasus region and all that needs to be done is to increase the throughput capacity of some sections of the existing Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipeline.

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But the actual state of affairs means that it cannot be claimed that the question of Azerbaijani oil transit through the Russian Federation has been finally decided.

There are reports that investments have already been allocated for the development of the Georgian-Turkish transit route. NATO is discussing Baku's recent proposal on the dispatch of a bloc peacemaking force to Karabakh: The thing is that northern parts of Karabakh almost come into contact with the Baku-Batumi (Poti) oil pipeline in northwest Azerbaijan.

The G-7 are not demanding direct talks between Azerbaijan and the Karabakh authorities, but at the same time it was after G-7's talks with Moscow that military operations in Chechnya ceased and talks began....

There are many reasons for believing that the Russian-Azerbaijani oil transit option will only formally be the main one. In fact investments and other resources are going into the Georgian-Turkish option. This is also confirmed by that fact that in the context of the Chechnya situation the consortium is not proposing to construct a pipeline to bypass Chechnya, for example, from Dagestan to Tikhoretsk via the northern part of Stavropol Kray. But work on the construction of the transit route, bypassing Russia (Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey), has already begun....

Russia, Turkey Discuss Transport of Caspian Oil

LD2410142395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1235 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — Experts from Russia and Turkey have discussed in Moscow matters related to the transportation of Caspian oil.

A source at the Russian Foreign Ministry told INTERFAX the Turkish delegation held talks at the Fuel and Energy Ministry and the Transneft oil transportation corporation and had a meeting at the Foreign Ministry.

The diplomat said the Turkish side suggested constructing oil pipelines from Tengiz, Kazakhstan, to Baku, Azerbaijan, along the sea bed and then to Turkey via Georgia.

So far the project is at the level of talks, the diplomat said.

The official believes Ankara is trying to gain control over the exportation of Caspian oil both via pipelines and by sea.

"Naturally Moscow resists this option," he said. The Russian side gives preference to the transportation of oil in circumvention of straits and Turkish territory through Burgas, Bulgaria, and Alexandroupolis, Greece.

The diplomat said the project has the support of the European Union which expressed readiness to cover spending on the feasibility study and partly fund the construction.

"The E.U. shows great interest in oil from the CIS and would want it to be transported through European countries bypassing Turkey," he said.

Oil Companies Complain to Yeltsin Over Draft Law

MK2510095595 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 7

[ANI report: "Oil Consultative Forum Concerned About Situation With Draft Law 'On Product-Sharing Agreements'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The uncertain situation surrounding the passage of the federal law "On Product-Sharing Agreements" could cause foreign oil companies involved in the development of Russia's oil and gas resources "to review their investment intentions" concerning major projects for developing Russian oil resources. This is said in a message from the Oil Consultative Forum (OCF) to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, signed by 32 of the world's major oil and gas companies operating in Russia. The draft law "On Product-Sharing Agreements" was given its second and third readings by the Russian State Duma back in June. In October, however, it was rejected by the Federation Council.

Voicing their utmost concern in their letter as regards the situation with the draft law "On Product-Sharing Agreements," the foreign oil company representatives suggest that many of the amendments that the Federation Council is currently striving to make to the document "tend toward a revision of the draft law's fundamental principles which would render it impossible for the investors to act in accordance with it." Furthermore, with less than two months to go before the State Duma elections, the OCF believes, "it is very unlikely that the conciliation commission will be capable of arriving at any decision at all." This could lead either to a delay in the passage of the law "On Product-Sharing Agreements" for an indefinite period or to its loss altogether. The companies that signed the appeal include Amoco, BP, British Gas, Chevron, Mobil, Occidental, Shell, Texaco, and others.

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Border Troops Deny Abkhazia Maritime Blockade

LD2410215295 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Oct 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking representative of the command of the naval forces of Russia's border troops today denied to INTERFAX the report that Russian border troops were blockading Abkhazia's maritime border. He said that in view of the many violations of the rules of navigation on this section of the external border of the CIS, the border troops had been given instructions to intensify protection of the borders from 23 October. At the same time he noted that the Russian border troops are protecting the maritime borders in this region in accordance with the Russian-Georgian agreement on protecting the external borders of the CIS. [video shows a ship moored in a port, port scenes]

[Arkadiy Melkonyan] On 23 October the Russian maritime border troops forbade three ships, two freight ships, and one passenger ship from leaving Abkhazia's three ports — Sukhumi, Gudauta, and Ochimchira. The ships were due to set off for their usual trips to Turkey. Only the MV Litsa with foreign passengers on board was allowed to sail to Trabzon. The command of the Russian border detachment in Sukhumi and also the Novorossiysk military unit refused to comment on this situation. And the deputy commander of the Caucasian border district, Major General Vladislav Kostyushin, in reply to a question from your correspondent replied that he knew nothing and had heard nothing.

The leadership of Abkhazia also refrained from expressing its official opinion on this subject. But it was revealed in Moscow. INTERFAX was told by Anri Jergenia a member of the Abkhaz delegation, the Abkhaz delegation will not take part in the talks with the Georgian side until the situation is normalized.

Moscow Confirms Adherence to Convention on CW Ban

LD2410184295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 24 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — Moscow confirms its adherence to the convention on prohibition of chemical weapons [CW], however, it believes that it is necessary to obligatory take into consideration Russia's legal economic interests in the process of chemical disarmament.

As spokesman of Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin said at a briefing in Moscow Tuesday, the delegation of the preparatory commission of the Organization on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (The Hague) which has recently visited Moscow was informed about this thought.

"The delegation was acquainted with the preparation for ratification of the convention and, in particular, with the purpose-oriented program aimed at destroying reserves of chemical weapons," Karasin said.

Moscow Welcomes Ban on Use of Laser Weapons

LD2410184095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 24 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — Russia welcomes the ban on the use of the laser weapons designed to irrevocably destroy eyesight, Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin said at a briefing in Moscow on Tuesday.

As he said, the decision to ban the use of the lasers that cause permanent blindness was taken at the first stage of the conference on reviewing compliance with the 1980 convention concerning the "inhuman arms" that cause excessive damage or have non-selective effect. The conference was held in Vienna recently.

According to the diplomat, the additional protocol to the convention adopted at the forum is in fact the first agreement in the history of mankind, which "preventively bans the use of weapons that, though already built, have not been put into mass production or deployed."

"In fact this is a precedent in the area of international legislation, which gives the world community an opportunity to 'catch up' with the rapid development of scientific and technical progress and prevent the emergence of the inhuman types of weaponry based on fundamentally new physical and other principles," Karasin stressed.

The protocol "also prohibits the transfer of blinding lasers to other countries or any non-governmental organizations," he pointed out.

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DPRK-Bound Train Found Carrying 24 1950's AAA Guns

MM2510112895 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[From roundup of Yu. Kulibaba, I. Sinyakevich, S. Averkin, Ye. Dotsuk, and INTERFAX reports: "General Sapsay Initiated Selloff"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The commercial activity of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense continues to be accompanied by scandal. The train carrying antiaircraft [AAA] guns [zenitnyye ustanovki] detained in Russian en route from Kazakhstan to the DPRK is yet one more shady story of Kazakhstan arms trading.

Although the Defense Ministry has not officially confirmed reports of the sale of the air defense systems to Korea, it has become known to us from a reliable source that the sale of 24 AAA guns by Kazakhstan did indeed take place. They are 1950's-model weapons.

Literally just before this, on 20 October, Major General Sapsay, Kazakhstan deputy minister of defense, was sentenced to eight years imprisonment and Colonel Sadibekov, chief of a directorate, to four years. The investigation into the affair lasted more than 18 months. In the course of it it became clear that a pretty big consignment of weapons — worth $2 million — had been sent abroad. The aircraft carrying the weapons disappeared. And the money never made it to Kazakhstan.

Nizhniy Novgorod Plant To Sign Deal With India

LD2410204295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NIZHNIY NOVGOROD, Oct 24 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — The Sokol aircraft plant based in Nizhniy Novgorod is likely to sign a contract with the Indian Defense Ministry in late November. Under the contract, the plant will upgrade MiG-21 fighters of the Indian Air Force.

The agreement was reached during a recent visit to Delhi by the plant's delegation, Viktor Andryunin, deputy Sokol head in charge of foreign economic relations, told INTERFAX-EURASIA Tuesday.

The contract, to be carried out up to the year 2000, provides for upgrading 125 MiG-21 fighters.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Attitude Towards Skokov Seen as 'Gauntlet'

MK2510063095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Natalya Arkhangelskaya: "(May We Avoid Above All Else)...Our Masters' Anger or Their Love"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At his Thursday briefing for journalists, Boris Yeltsin, speaking about his attitude toward the Congress of Russian Communities, defined it as neutral, noting that this organization has both positive and "power" inclinations, the latter being "redundant." Having criticized General Lebed, the president referred to another congress leader, Yuriy Skokov, in a fairly positive tone. Skokov himself — undoubtedly, an experienced politician, who knows the president well — could hardly relish these compliments: to all appearances, they bode him no good.

In KOMMERSANT-DAILY's view, overtures made by the president at the briefing toward the former Russian Security Council chairman can be interpreted as a gauntlet thrown down to Skokov — a serious warning at least, if not an open declaration of war.

It has long been noticed that Yeltsin starts advertising those whom he wants to destroy. Ultimately, Yeltsin's advertising turns out to be quite the opposite. One of the latest examples is the creation of two centrist blocs. It should be recalled that Yeltsin was the first to broach the topic and that he simultaneously named the prospective bloc leaders. It is difficult to presume that a politician such as Yeltsin did not understand what he was doing. He did; we all saw it for ourselves a few months later.

Now Boris Yeltsin lavishes a whole stream of flattering epithets on the leaders of the Congress of Russian Communities. Meanwhile, Skokov has already complained to the press about attempts to turn the congress into a "tame opposition." The president's phrase that Skokov has not said a single bad word about him throughout their political row indicates that Yeltsin is aiming to pull its cornerstone — enthusiastic criticism of the president — from under the congress's political rhetoric.

In addition, Yeltsin is skillfully stirring up the already simmering differences between Skokov and Lebed, the most important of which boils down to the former's persistent unwillingness to criticize openly the ruling regime, a "Rybkin syndrome" of sorts, which greatly irritates the boisterous general, who does not want to till the propaganda field alone.

Yet more, even if indirect, proof of this theory may be seen in new tones adopted by the media over the past few days in its reference to the Congress of Russian Communities. Take, for instance, the "Hero of the Day" show, which featured a conversation between two journalists — Yevgeniy Kiselev and Pavel Gusev. The MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS editor hinted — though very carefully — that the hitherto anonymous "third force," which had been longing to come to power and had been generating very keen interest in the press, was, according to his information, beginning to materialize in Skokov and Lebed. This is a bold assertion, particularly given that up to now both journalists have treated the congress leaders with a certain piety. Similar hints could also be noted in other publications.

"The bright Skokov," as he was referred to by the president (apparently, with some malicious glee), appears to have outplayed himself. The all-out propaganda campaign he and Lebed launched recently (by the way, in violation of the Law on Elections, which bans electoral campaigning before signature lists are registered by the Central Electoral Commission), plus rumors constantly fanned by the press about allegedly friendly contacts with the head of state and the upcoming replacement of Chernomyrdin by Skokov, which, in the view of many, were sparked by Skokov himself, did their job. The last straw was presumably his rather tactless offer of personal security guarantees to Yeltsin in case Skokov comes to power.

Time will put things in their place, but it is clear even at this point that the president has no intention to cede power. As for strong players, he has never had a need for them, either in or outside his team.

Skokov Criticizes Yeltsin, Premier; Praises Korzhakov

MK2510063295 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 3

[Interview with Yuriy Skokov, leader of the Congress of Russian Communities; place and date not given: "From Yuriy Skokov's Interview for KOMMERSANT-DAILY"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [KOMMERSANT-DAILY] Many people ascribe rumors about the premier's upcoming resignation to you.

[Skokov] I do not have such influence on the press, so the theory is at least unwise. Besides, I have repeatedly and openly said that Chernomyrdin bears immense responsibility for what he has done to the country's economy. I am simply astonished by the fact that Yeltsin does not notice or does not want to notice that.

Generally speaking, I have gained the impression that Chernomyrdin has been misusing his office on an

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exceptionally large scale. He gave life to "Gazprom" — a monopoly unprecedented for any civilized market economy — and uses it as a powerful tool to prop up his authority. Moreover, this tool is used to buy up large pieces of the national wealth. Market-based economies, which we presumably have, use the concept of "natural monopoly," which entails a certain system of relations. For instance, if you assume a state post after having worked for a company, you have no right to engage in protectionism. This will be called misuse of power in any economy, be it a market or a command one.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] Are you acquainted with Korzhakov?

[Skokov] I know him very well. He is a man devoted to the president. I personally respect him because in 1987 he was one of the few who displayed a really human attitude to their patron. While in service, he visited his ailing, ousted chief. As a result, he was fired himself and found himself unemployed. I simply appreciate this human deed. How could Korzhakov know that he would become the chief of the Main Protection Directorate? I know his family. This is an excellent family.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] Various publications have quoted your statements about your running mates on the electoral list — General Lebed and Sergey Glazyev. They are fairly contradictory.

[Skokov] I am sometimes criticized for lacking the wish to speak to the press. I have no aversion to reporters, but, unfortunately, there are many "political commissars" among them, who snatch things from their context and indulge in speculation.

Skokov, Lebed, and Glazyev — all three of us have assessed who is capable of what, who can do what, and what our roles should be. We are together. We have no internal disagreement or differences. I think that Lebed is an intelligent man with a natural gift and a huge potential. It is another matter how this potential will be developed. I think that Glazyev is a brilliant economist. Suffice it to say that he became a doctor of science at 28 at Shatalin's, that is, where Shokhin, for instance, could not become a doctor (he obtained this degree when he was Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's aide). Nechayev [former economics minister] could not become a laboratory chief there. Both of them — Lebed and Glazyev — are people with bright prospects. And we are one team.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] If Lebed's rating is high by the presidential election, will you support him?

[Skokov] This will depend on many circumstances. People must think before, not after, they cast their ballots. How many times can we be taken for a ride because of our trust and hope or vote for someone just because we like him? First we made a mistake with Gorbachev because we believed in perestroyka and acceleration. Then another one popped up, who explained to us that it is the bureaucracy and nomenklatura with their privileges that are to blame for everything. All that was perceived as a struggle for social justice. The result is well known. In the past, there were 18 million bureaucrats for the entire USSR, now there are 25 million for Russia alone. So, we ought to think hard. Everything will depend on the specific situation and on the figure that will best correspond to this situation. Maybe Lebed will be the most suitable figure. Maybe a different person will be needed.

Yeltsin Urged To Delay Appoinment of Bank Chief

MM2510114495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "In the State Duma. It Is Hard for the Central Bank To Manage Without a Chairman"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has adopted an appeal to the Russian Federation president in connection with the situation that has formed around the candidacy for nomination as Central Bank chairman.

The appeal says that an extremely alarming situation has formed in the Russian banking sphere. The crisis in this system is having a sharply negative effect on the economic processes in the country. Hundreds of thousands, and maybe even millions, of Russian citizens will once again find themselves in danger of losing their savings, which are, as a rule, triflingly small but vitally important.

The activity of the Bank of Russia does not really satisfy one of its basic aims — the strengthening of the Russian Federation banking system. One of the main reasons for this is the prolonged absence at the head of the Central Bank of a chairman appointed in accordance with the law.

The State Duma appealed to the president to submit a candidacy for appointment to the post of chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. In the prevailing conditions, the appeal says, the delay is liable to result in reinforcing the alarming trends in the development of the economic and political situation in the country.

Chernomyrdin Praises 'Highly Competent' Skuratov

LD2410173095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (Interfax) — The Federation Council approved the presidential-

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proposed candidate for Russia's prosecutor general, 43-year-old Yuriy Skuratov, at its plenary meeting Tuesday. Skuratov was director of the Research Institute for Strengthening Legality and Public Order under the Prosecutor General's Office since 1993.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin presented Skuratov to the Federation Council calling him "a highly competent professional," his degree of doctor of legal sciences and over 60 works being evidence of this. Chernomyrdin underlined that Skuratov was well known for his "principles and high responsibility."

A member of the Prosecutor General's Office collegium, Skuratov showed "good management skills," Chernomyrdin said. He added Skuratov had taken part in developing a draft law on the Prosecutor General's Office and of the new penal code.

In answer to deputies' questions, Chernomyrdin said he was confident that Skuratov "will get things moving in the Prosecutor General's Office," where many problems had piled up due to the lack of a full-fledged prosecutor general.

Admitting that Skuratov never worked as prosecutor, Chernomyrdin agreed with the deputies that "stronger" assistants should reinforce his office to support the new prosecutor general.

Skuratov Favors 'Gradual' Reformation

LD2410172395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (Interfax) — Russia's new Prosecutor General Yuriy Skuratov supports a "well-balanced and gradual" reformation of the country's prosecution system.

Speaking in the Federation Council upon his approval in this capacity, Skuratov said his first step will be "to refine the moral and psychological ambience in prosecution bodies."

Skuratov believes it is necessary to strengthen the bodies' "legal protection potential" and intensify its crime-tackling function by tightening control of investigative and operations bodies. He said cases of covered up, unregistered and unsolved crimes were numerous in Russia's law enforcement bodies.

Skuratov said he will take measures to reinforce the prosecution personnel. "It is unacceptable when students of law universities sometimes investigate contract killings, even in Moscow," he added.

Skuratov said his appointment will not mean a sudden breakthrough in the fight against corruption. This is a national problem, as in Italy in the 20s, and it should solved "in a complex fashion, at the level of state policy," he added.

In answer to journalists' questions, Skuratov said his first trip as prosecutor general will be to Chechnya "to see the Chechen Prosecutor's Office work and examine the situation with legality and observance of human rights on its territory." "This is a very pressing issue requiring a quick response," he added.

Shumeyko, Canada's Molgat Discuss Council Formation Law

LD2310215595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1358 GMT 23 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 23 Oct (itar-tass) — Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the upper chamber of parliament, criticized today the law on forming the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly.

Today he received a delegation of the Senate of the Canadian parliament headed by Senate Speaker Gildas Molgat and discussed with him, in particular, problems relating to the state role of the Federation Council.

V. Shumeyko stressed that the upper chamber of the Federal Assembly must ensure "the unity of the regions and give a concrete meaning to the concept of federative relations." He noted that the law on forming the Federation Council, which was passed by the State Duma on 11 October, "grossly violates the rights of the components of the Federation and envisages forming not a Federation Council but some kind of body which can be called a council of the components of the Federation." He also believes that if the central structures are not represented in the Federation Council, it will be difficult to set up an efficient body of power at this stage. The speaker said that the committees of the chamber had a lot of remarks concerning this law and voiced the supposition that if it is voted down, the chamber might propose its own version.

The deputies of the Federation Council are to examine the law at tomorrow's sitting.

The head of the Canadian Senate remarked that he understands Russia's problems. In its time, Canada "also faced a similar situation," he said.

The law on forming the Federation Council envisages that the upper chamber of parliament should be made up of heads of administrations and leaders of legislative power. A representative of a component of the Federation — a member of the upper chamber from a state power executive body — must be elected leader of the

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same body of the corresponding component of the Federation.

Ryzhkov Claims Nation Becoming 'Totalitarian Society'

LD2410164395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (Interfax) — Leader of the Power to the People pre-election bloc, Nikolay Ryzhkov declared Tuesday at a press conference devoted to the publication of the book Ten Years of Great Upheavals, Perestroika in "this nation died in 1991 together with the collapse of the USSR" and now Russia is becoming a totalitarian society.

Ryzhkov, the former chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, believes political and economic reforms in the country "have come to a dead end." He sees the way out "not in a return to the years of 1953 or 1985 but in a principally new economic model, a single one for Russia which is moving in its own way."

Ryzhkov saw two stages in the process of Russia's economic restoration, the first concerns the restoration of the national economy which will take place predominantly under state regulation. He gave priority to market relations as the second stage of "this movement forward."

Responding to Interfax, Ryzhkov disagreed with the fact that perestroika has continued until now. He divided it in two stages, before the year of 1991 and the next four years "which have nothing in common with perestroika." He voiced a supposition that historians will name this period "troubled times."

Grachev Appears in Court, Departs for U.S.

LD2510112795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov: "Grachev appears in court, confirms suit to journalist" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 25 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Defence minister Pavel Grachev obeyed recommendations of President Boris Yeltsin and appeared for the first time in the Moscow court Wednesday which considers a defamation case launched by the minister against Vadim Poegli, a journalist of the popular MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS daily.

Grachev missed all court hearings of the case and judge Olga Govorova ruled that he be brought to the court by police.

Grachev initially refused, accusing the judge of turning the hearings into a "farce trial", but later had to even postpone his visit to Greece to appear in court.

The minister apologised for the "farce trial" statement and insisted that Poegli had publicly insulted him "both as a person and as the Defence minister" by publishing an article headlined "Pasha the Mercedes. The thief must be in jail". Pasha is the nickname for Pavel.

The article said Grachev had used the funds of the Russian troops withdrawn from Germany to buy two Mercedes cars for himself.

"A person can be called a thief only upon a court verdict", Grachev said. "I ask you to pass a decision based on law", he added.

Grachev was then allowed by the judge to leave the court room as the minister has to fly to the United States to meet his counterpart William Perry and consider the Russian participation in Bosnian peace-keeping efforts.

Poegli pleaded non-guilty, but the prosecutor insisted that he be convicted for "deliberate insult of Pavel Grachev in mass media", which can result in two years of corrective labour or a fine of 20 minimum wages and a temporary ban on profession.

The trial continues.

Journalist Repeats Accusations Against Grachev

LD2510102495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 2120 GMT on 24 October carries its "Versions" program, on which MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondent Vadim Poegli repeats his accusations against Defense Minister Pavel Grachev of misuse of funds in the Western Group of Forces (the Soviet and later Russian troops stationed in the former German Democratic Republic). Poegli made the original accusations in an article entitled "Pasha Mercedes," published by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS the day after the murder of journalist Dmitriy Kholodov, who had also been researching corruption in the army. In response, Grachev brought a lawsuit against Poegli, due to be heard on 25 October.

"Versions" begins its program with a video recording from the "Rush Hour" program broadcast by the Russian Public Television Network in 1994 in which Pavel Gusev, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS editor-in-chief, makes a number of accusations of corruption against Pavel Grachev and top military leaders and finishes by calling for Grachev's resignation. This is followed by a recording from Moscow NTV on 20

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October in which Pavel Gusev apologizes to Grachev and they shake hands on screen.

"Versions" presenter Sergey Dorenko notes: "Our Kremlin sources knew at least 10 days ago that Pavel Gusev was going to apologize to Pavel Grachev, but Gusev did not tell the journalist who wrote the article 'Pasha Mercedes.'" "Versions" journalist Dmitriy Pinskiy interviews Vadim Poegli at the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS offices.

Asked first whether he will be apologize to Grachev in court, Poegli says: "Of course not." He goes on: "First, I do not think that Gusev apologized specifically over my case. I have watched the video recording again — Gusev apologized for allegedly calling Grachev the murderer of Kholodov on the anniversary of the latter's death. In fact, it was a mistake by the INTERFAX agency who then — I spoke to INTERFAX myself — who then published a refutation. It was a young correspondent — of course mistakes happen. He apologized for this specific incident, which occurred on 17 October 1995. Then he said that the tone of Poegli's article was dictated by the fact that Poegli was friendly with Kholodov and the article was written a day after the latter's death. This is the opinion of one of the witnesses.

"As I understand it, this criminal case is not against MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, where Pavel Gusev's opinion would be the deciding factor, but against a MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS journalist, that is, me. My opinion is the opposite. In today's edition of MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, Gusev says that he thinks it is his mistake. He apologized. I think that it is a mistake, too, a gross mistake for a person who has been a journalist for 15 years."

Poegli says that only time will tell whether MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS journalists will leave the newspaper because they cannot work with Gusev. "I think there hasn't been a split in the editorial staff," Poegli said. Asked whether he will continue to work with Gusev, Poegli replies: "An apology was made to me, too. It will depend on whether this was just a mistake, if this was simply a mistake — then, yes."

"You don't consider yourself guilty and have nothing to apologize to Grachev for?" Pinskiy asks. "No, I have nothing to apologize for," Poegli replies. "I am an adult and responsible for what I say."

Asked whether he thinks Grachev should in fact be on trial for the offenses alleged in Poegli's article, the journalist says: "I think so, too. You know, when Mercedes are bought with money destined for building apartments for officers from the Western Group of Forces, I also think that it is not a financial offense. All the same, I continue to think, like the investigator who investigated this case, I share his view that it is an offense of office, a crime under criminal legislation."

Asked why a criminal case had not been brought, Poegli says: "A criminal case was begun. An investigation was carried out. But they considered this a minor financial offense, you see. What is $160,000 here, $160,000 there? They think the country suffered no damage. But even in the Criminal Code, damage is not considered only as economic loss, but also moral damage. I think Grachev himself by his actions damaged the Russian state because the troops would not call him Pasha Mercedes otherwise. I did not make this up. If anyone sits and talks to any officer — I know a lot of officers, as I have worked on my subject a great deal — they would not call him that otherwise."

Military Issues

Declassified Documents Describe 1960 ICBM Accident

LD2410210795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2042 GMT 24 Oct 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 24 (Itar-Tass) — There was a blast on the launch pad 35 years ago, on October 24, 1960, during the preparation for the first launching of the R-16 intercontinental missile. The blast killed officers and men of a detachment and chairman of the state commission, Commander-in-Chief of the strategic rocket forces, Chief Marshal of artillery, Mitrofan Nedelin.

Itar-Tass learnt from the press centre of the Russian strategic rocket forces today that the documents of the investigation into the explosion were kept secret. Now that they have been declassified, it became clear that the explosion was caused by the launching of a rocket engine of the second stage, not envisaged by the programme.

R-16 missile was adopted for service in the strategic rocket forces and became the basis for grouping intercontinental missiles that formed a reliable shield of the country. Rocketry men of the young generation today placed flowers at the Baykonur and at the Kremlin Wall in Moscow in memory of those who lost their lives developing the country's shield. The remembrance day of those who gave their lives for the glory of the Motherland was held in military units.

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Army General Staff's Central Command Post Visted

LD2410183595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0730 GMT 22 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Andrey Rostotskiy] This white building in Arbatskaya Square contains a lot of military and state secrets. But the central command post of the general staff — the brain center of our whole country's security — is cloaked in especial secrecy. In the 30 years of its existence no one has been here except the generals and officers that work here, a narrow circle of people from the leadership of the Ministry of Defense, and the supreme commander himself. All the threads of the day-to-day life of the Army cross here, in the tactical control center. Every chair has a nameplate: President, defense minister, chief of general staff. Near the president's chair there is a red telephone for the case if nuclear forces need to be used.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] How often is the president of state permitted to come to the command post?

[Unidentified officer] When exercises with strategic nuclear forces are being carried out and armed forces command exercises are held. The president was at the exercises, and he personally takes part in them. [end recording]

[Rostotskiy] Today we will not talk in detail about the command post. There have been detailed articles about it in many newspapers. They appeared precisely because the information directorate of the Russian Ministry of Defense did an unprecedented thing — they invited correspondents to the command post and told them of its work.

We just want to say thank you very much to those officials of the information directorate who trusted us, journalists, and set up this meeting. We made special inquiries: Newspapers with stories about the central command post of our army, both army ones and civilian ones, were read with great interest, they were sought out, asked for.

Combat readiness is based on secrecy, but maybe, and in no lesser degree, it is based on trust.

Federal Assembly

Duma Bans Political Acts in Military, Adopts Law

LD2510103195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian State Duma adopted the law on defence on Wednesday which prohibits unathorised armed formations and bans political activities and election campaigning in the armed forces.

The law says that, besides the armed forces, defence tasks can be fulfilled also by border guards, interior troops, civil defence forces and government communication officers and men.

The Foreign Intelligence Service, the Federal Security Service, Interior bodies, engineering units, as well as government communication agencies can be involved in fulfilling special defence tasks.

The law stresses that the creation and existence of formations, "which have a military structure or possess weapons and military equipment" and which are not o'kayed by a federal law, is banned.

The law also prohibits "any political activities in military units and organisations, including election campaigning" and allows only organisational work of election commissions before polls.

Political parties and movements cannot set up their grass-root organisations in the armed forces, according to the law.

Duma Hears Primakov on National Security

MK2410151095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Oct 95 pp 1, 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Yuryev and Natalya Kalashnikova: "State Duma Plenary Sitting. It Is Advantageous and Convenient To Show Concern About National Security on the Eve of Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the State Duma found the state of national security unsatisfactory and pointed out to the president the need to expedite the drafting and adoption of an appropriate doctrine and submit it to the Federal Assembly before the end of the current year.

The national security topic was raised completely out of turn during consideration of the draft 1996 budget. A resolution supported by 227 deputies (the quorum was 226) contains an instruction to the Duma to consider and approve a federal budget for 1996 precisely "taking account of Russia's national security." The resolution was

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drafted in the Duma security committee and sponsored by its head, Viktor Ilyukhin. The document presented to deputies had appended to it an analytical note compiled by him listing facts attesting to a critical state of national security. The note says, in particular, that the production slump in 1990-1994 reached 70-80 percent in some sectors, whereas GDP as a whole was more than halved. Ilyukhin asserts that Russia has lost virtually all of its gold reserves over the past few years. According to him, 900 tonnes of gold had been taken out of the country and only 120.2 tonnes of gold remained as of 1 April 1995, whereas the filthy lucre in the vaults of Fort Knox (U.S. treasury depository) weighs in at 8,200 tonnes! There was no discussion on these problems, consequently was no one to refute the statement, but the very fact that the Duma still made a linkage between the budget question and national security attests if nothing else that Ilyukhin had scared them. Besides, to become concerned about national security shortly before elections is generally advantageous and convenient.

The deputies' concern about national security problems had an effect on the result of voting on the draft law "On Amendments and Additions to the Law on Foreign Intelligence" — it was supported by nearly 300 Duma members. It was amended so as to expand the foreign intelligence service's authority to ensure its own security (apparently, in order to cut the growing number of defections by its agents) and to preserve state secrets and cooperation with other states' intelligence services (now it is possible to conclude agreements with other agencies, including the CIA). Invited to comment in this regard, SVR [Foreign Intelligence Service] head Yevgeniy Primakov was energetically interrogated not only about the situation in his department but also on the national security problem so strikingly and fruitfully played on by Ilyukhin. The spymaster, meanwhile, shared the deputies' concern over the absence of an appropriate doctrine, saying that he was ready to contribute his small share to developing it.

Primakov for his part asked the deputies to take account of his department's needs in preparing the budget: He asked for his employees to be afforded a lifestyle that would at least dissuade them from defecting. True, he declined to answer a question from concerned deputies on how many agents had left the country since the USSR's disintegration. Nor did he answer another burning question — about who among and how many Russian politicians keep money in foreign banks, remarking that it was something he would also like to know. Primakov made a virtue of being uninformed, saying that if the Duma was asking such questions, this meant that it believed that he knew everything and hence valued him highly. There were also some rather simpler questions. The SVR chief assured the legislators inter alia that the intelligence service had always been firmly opposed to the expansion of NATO. The traditional topic of the Balkans, which is extremely popular in the Duma, was also not ignored: "The intelligence service has done much to help resolve the conflict in a just fashion."

Primakov did not object to the provisions in the adopted amendments and additions to the law on foreign intelligence which entitle the Duma, in particular, to exercise (not only financial) control over its activity. Nor did he object to having a special structure to monitor the SVR created in the Duma international affairs committee to implement that control.

The overall impression is that the deputies interpret the problem of national security in broad terms — the same way they interpret their own security. Economic security, that is. Yesterday, even before passing the budget, Duma members solved the question of their pensions: A pension cannot be less than 75 percent of a deputy's salary (as high as the one paid to ministers) and is subject to periodic revision. These innovations were introduced into the law "On a Deputy's Status." Let us recall that the parliamentarians earlier decided against the other innovation — to reduce the scope of a deputy's immunity. These are unpopular decisions, of course, coming shortly before the elections, but at the same time they are vital....

Duma Warns Ukraine Over Russians' 'Persecution'

MM2510101895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "In the State Duma. Russians and Ukrainians Are Brothers For All Time"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has adopted a statement in connection with the attempted enforced disbandment of the Russian Community of Sevastopol and the closure of its newspaper. The statement notes that in fall 1995, the Ukrainian authorities organized the persecution of the Russian Community of Sevastopol because of the assistance it has given to the local consular work done by the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry in Crimea to legalize Russian Federation citizenship, and also because of the publication of official Russian Federation documents in the Russian Community of Sevastopol's newspaper.

Recalling the many centuries of the coexistence of our reunited peoples within a single state and the millions of Russians in Ukraine and Ukrainians in Russia, the State Duma has confirmed the desire of the Russian people for friendship and the development of integration processes between our states.

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However, turning to the actions being undertaken against the Russian Community of Sevastopol, the Duma stated that it will not disregard the future behavior of the Ukrainian authorities in respect of the Russian Community of Sevastopol during the ratification of treaties with Ukraine. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry has been instructed to inform the Ukrainian side of this opinion of the State Duma.

Rosugol Chief Appeals to Duma for Coal Industry Support

MM2510101195 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI (Saturday Edition) in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 13

[Report by Olga Burkaleva: "Rosugol Does Not Waste Its Time in the Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The miners represent a special political force. That is clearly why Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin did not forget to refer to the government's plans to solve the problems in the coal-mining industry when he addressed the State Duma 13 October. And indeed the people's elected representatives themselves decided that it was time for them to play a part in the future of such influential voters.

The Duma was also addressed by Yuriy Malyshev, general director of the Rosugol State Company. The state of affairs in the coal sector demands urgent state intervention. Since the start of this year alone coal extraction has fallen from 415 million to 260 million tonnes and 34 coal enterprises have stopped extracting coal and closed down.

Mr. Malyshev proposed a number of measures capable of overcoming the coal sector's crisis — notably, granting it state status, substantially increasing the amount of state support, restoring extrabudgetary funds, exempting the coal industry from tax on increased wages, and so forth. In his opinion, there is no major investor for the coal sector in Russia — as, incidentally, in other countries too — other than the state.

The coal miners' lobbying efforts did not remain unanswered. On the proposal of Ivan Rybkin, an official memorandum was recorded whereby the Committee for Industry, Construction, Transport, and Energy was instructed to submit the draft law on the coal industry to the State Duma session for its second reading before the end of October. It was also resolved to request that the government clear its arrears to the coal miners.

Federal Executive Organ Members Replaced in Chechnya

MM2410205995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 4

[Russian Federation Government Directive No. 1370 "On the Deputy Leader of the Territorial Administration of the Federal Organs of Executive Power in the Chechen Republic," dated 9 October 1995, Moscow, and signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. Leonid Alekseyevich Shiryaev, deputy chief of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] Main Administration for the Execution of Punishments, is to be appointed deputy chief of the Territorial Administration of the Federal Organs of Executive Power in the Chechen Republic in the rank of Russian Federation deputy minister.

2. Vladimir Georgiyevich Shumov, deputy chief of the Russian MVD Main Administration for Ensuring Public Order, is to be released from the post of deputy chief of the Territorial Administration of the Federal Organs of Executive Power in the Chechen Republic at the rank of Russian Federation deputy minister.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation government.

List of Legislative, Regulatory Documents 8-14 Oct

96P50005

[FBIS Media Note] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parentheses indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Government 19 September Decree No. 935 On Confirmation Of V.A. Pavlov As Replacement For Chairman Of Interdepartmental Commission On Control And Cash Registers. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Oct 95 p 4) (100)

Government 19 September Directive No. 12315 Ordering Committee For Mineral Resources To Grant "Kolskiye Mineraly" License To Prospect, Mine Diamonds From White Sea Continental Shelf, Plus Comment By Committee Geology And Mineral Resource Licensing Administration Chief Filiko On Reasons For

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Choice, Terms Firm Will Have To Meet. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Oct 95 p 1) (100/400)

Government 26 September Decree No. 961 On Appointment Of S.D. Shatalov As Government's Official Representative When Parliament Is Examining International Treaties On Tax Issues. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Oct 95 p 4) (100)

Government 26 September Directive No. 1337 Okaying Bankruptcy Administration Proposal To Sell Off Saralinskiy Rudnik State Enterprise In Khakas Republic. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Oct 95 p 3) (100)

Government 29 September Decree No. 971 On Transforming 'Rosneft' State Enterprise Into Joint-Stock Company. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Oct 95 p 3) (1000) (Text)

Government 29 September Decree No. 972 On Forming 'Sibirskaya Neftyanaya Kompaniya' [Siberian Petroleum Company] Joint-Stock Oil Company. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Oct 95 p 3) (450) (Text)

Government 3 October Directive No. 1357 On Privatization Of Tyumen Airline, Retention Of 51 Percent Of Shares In Federal Ownership. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Oct 95 p 3) (150) (Text)

Government 3 October Directive No. 1358 On Privatization of Tolmachevo Airport, Retention Of 51 Percent Of Shares In Federal Ownership. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Oct 95 p 3) (150) (Text)

Federation Council 3 October Decree No. 592 On Approving Law On Rectifying Wages of Employees In Budget-Financed Sphere. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Oct 95 p 4) (70)

Government 9 October Directive No. 1374 On Submission To State Duma of Draft Federal Law On Commercial Secrets. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Oct 95 p 4) (70)

Federation Council Proposals (Undated) For Amendments, Additions To Federal Law On Amending, Augmenting RF Law On Privatization of State, Municipal Enterprises In Light Of Council's Rejection Of Version Approved By Duma. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Oct 95 p 3) (1200)

SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

Government 7 September Decree No. 903 On Signing of Protocol Between Russia, Greece on Basis For Bilateral Relations. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Oct 95 p 4) (200)

Government 18 September Directive Accepting Defense Ministry Proposal For Talks With UK on Creating Officer Retraining Center, Plus Commentary By Ministry Department Chief Yuriy Kirillov. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Oct 95 p 3) (150/500) (Text)

Government 26 September Decree No. 958 Approving Draft Statute (Not Published) On Russia-Kazakhstan Intergovernmental Commission On Baykonur, Deeming It "Expedient" For It To Be Signed at Head of Government Level. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Oct 95 p 3) (150)

Government 26 September Decree No. 966 Transferring Federally Owned State Enterprises In Vologda To Local Ownership, With List of Enterprises. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Oct 95 p 1) (200)

Federation Council 3 October Decree No. 600 On Changes And Additions To RF Law on Insurance. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Oct 95 p 4) (70)

Government 4 October Decree No. 973 Approving Federal Migration Service Draft Memorandum (Not Published) On Joint Migration Scheme With Canada, Tasking Service With Negotiating Agreement. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Oct 95 p 3) (200)

Government 4 October Decree No. 974 Approving Foreign Ministry Draft Memorandum (Not Published) on Cultural Cooperation With Canada, Tasking Ministry With Negotiating, Signing Agreement. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Oct 95 p 3) (200)

Government 4 October Directive No. 1361 On Siting of Central Electoral Commission's Computer Center. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Oct 95 p 4) (150) (Text)

Federation Council 4 October Decree No. 604 On Ratification of RF/Estonian Law on Withdrawal of Russian Armed Forces From Estonian Territory. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Oct 95 p 4) (150)

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Yeltsin 5 October Edict No. 1007 On Measures To Ensure Cooperation Between Federal, Federation Component Organs of State Power In Implementing Constitutional-Law Reform. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Oct 95p 3) (1300) (Text)

Federation Council 5 October Appeal No. 616 To State Duma Urging 'Priority' Examination of Draft Law (Not Published) On Procedure For Pro Tem Functioning of Parliament In Light of Yeltsin Rejection of Law on Formation of Federation Council. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Oct 95 p 3) (300)

Yeltsin 8 October Edict No. 1019 On Improving TV, Radio Broadcasting In Russia. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Oct 95 p 3) (1300) (Text)

Government 9 October Decree No. 976 On RF-Colombian Trade Agreement Signing. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Oct 95 p 4) (200)

Government 9 October Decree No. 977 On Signing of Protocol on Trade and Payments Between RF and Cuba. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Oct 95 p 4) (500) (Text)

SECTION III: SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL

RF Government 26 August Decree No. 847 On Ratification Of Statute On Licensing Topographical-Geodesic And Cartographic Activity Plus Commentary By Ye. Skukin. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Oct 95 p 4) (550)

Government 18 September Decree No. 928 On Conclusion of Agreement Between Russian And Azerbaijan Governments on Scientific and Technical Cooperation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Oct 95 p 4) (150)

Government 19 September Decree No. 943 On 41st Russian Antarctic Expedition, With Commentary By S. Khodkin. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Oct 95 p 4) (850) (Text)

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Negotiations, Military, Politics

Delegates Hold Unofficial Consultations

LD2510141395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 25 (Interfax) — Russian and Chechen delegates have been holding unofficial consultations in Khankala, a suburb of Groznyy, for eleven hours Wednesday.

The Russian delegation includes chief negotiator Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, his deputy Vladimir Zorin and representatives of the federal troops' command.

Dudayev is represented by chief delegate Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, chief of military staff Aslan Maskhadov and others.

According to sources in the Russian delegation, the consultations revolve around the resumption of activities by the special observer commission. Russia is also going to put forward its new ideas on how to settle the crisis. Dudayev's delegates will be briefed on a draft political agreement, providing for the specification of Chechnya's future status and the sharing of powers between Moscow and Groznyy.

At 1:30 a.m. Moscow time the talks in Khankala were still in progress.

Russians, Chechens Seek New Talks 'Venue'

LD2510091695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0818 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The Special Observer Commission in Groznyy failed to resume its sittings today. However, unofficial consultations on a peaceful settlement in Chechnya between the federal and Chechen sides are continuing. The main aim of those consultations is to decide on the new venue of the talks, which could meet all safety requirements. According to the latest reports by the Chechen Ministry of Internal Affairs, it is extremely difficult to find such a safe place on the map.

The press center of the territorial directorate has told ITAR-TASS that Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, the head of the Russian delegation, is expected to fly to Moscow today.

Chechens Waiting For UN Observers' Arrival

LD2410141895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1232 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — Head of the Chechen delegation to talks with the federal authorities Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov sees no sense in continuing the political dialogue with Moscow or resuming the operation of the Special Observer Commission before the arrival of international observers from the United Nations, he told INTERFAX in Groznyy Tuesday.

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Earlier the head of the Russian delegation to the talks Vyacheslav Mikhaylov did not rule out the possibility of the resumption of the talks on Tuesday or Wednesday. He told INTERFAX that the Russian delegation intends to send an official invitation to Dudayev's representatives.

Yarikhanov said his delegation has not received any invitation yet.

He said the attitude of the Chechen side remains unchanged: Readiness for talks depends on reliable guarantees of security and the prevention of hostilities. "Otherwise the Chechen delegation will not sit down at the negotiating table," Yarikhanov stressed.

On the role of the OSCE mission as the guarantor of agreements he said that the mandate of the mission does not allow it to carry out the task in full. "OSCE representatives in Groznyy are limited even in their travels around the republic and they need protection themselves," he said.

Police Open Fire at Groznyy Rally

LD2410143995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — At least one person died and four were injured when local police opened fire at a rally of Dudayev supporters in the central square of Groznyy, eye witnesses claimed Tuesday.

They said that at noon Moscow time local police controlled by the city mayor Beslan Gantimirov tried to disperse several thousand people demanding independence for Chechnya and the withdrawal of Russian troops.

Dudayev's provincial representative in Vedeno Suleiman Khajimuratov told press the rally was a reaction to the reshuffle in the National Revival Government.

He said the reshuffle will not improve the situation in Chechnya and claimed that the protesters like all Chechens demanded the restoration of lawful government in the republic.

City hospital No. 9 confirmed the receipt of four wounded.

There has been no confirmation of the death of a protester by other sources.

Russia Said Continuing To Bomb Villages

AU2410160395 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 19 Oct 95 p 1

[ZA VILNU UKRAYINU report: "A Phone Call From Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Yesterday, there was a telephone call to the editorial board of ZA VILNU UKRAYINU. It was from Said-Khasan Abumuslimov, a deputy in the Ichkeria, the parliament of the Chechen Republic, who succeeded in contacting us via a satellite link.** Speaking about the situation in Chechnya, he stressed that Russian aircraft are continuing to bomb Chechen villages on a daily basis. Every airstrike leaves dozens of people dead or wounded, women, children, and old people. Moscow denies responsibility for these crimes, shifting the blame to neighbors and alleging that the Chechens could be being bombed by aircraft of... Georgia or Armenia. Maybe Turkey? Or NATO? Even though it has not been reliably established from precisely which airfields the fighters are taking off, nobody has any doubts about their Russian origin any more than about Russia's intentions to resume large-scale genocide actions against the Chechen people. Federal troops are preventing journalists from getting, for example, to Groznyy, where peace talks have been suspended. The Chechen side insists on the presence in the area of the UN, the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], and especially of Interparliamentary Assembly observers, who are known to include Ukrainian deputies. However, Moscow does not agree to the participation of the Interparliamentary Assembly in the talks and ignores the Chechen side's proposals.

Said-Khasan Abumuslimov said that publications in the Ukrainian press, particularly the magazine SVOBODA NARODIV [Freedom of Nations] and the newspaper ZA VILNU UKRAYINU, on the national-liberation struggle of the Chechen people and also the television film "Russism" that was sent to Chechnya had received a wide response in the Ichkeria. In conclusion, our Chechen friend conveyed his sincere greetings and gratitude to all those in Ukraine who support the Chechen struggle for independence from Russia.

Soskovets: More Chechen Government Support

LD2410173995 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government intends to increase support for the National Rebirth Government in Chechnya, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets told INTERFAX. Soskovets said

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that the Chechen government should become more independent in tackling economic problems. According to him, benefits for organizations and enterprises in Chechnya envisaged by decisions of the federal authorities, in particular the Russian president's edict, have not yet begun to take effect. Without either financial or material resources, the Chechen government has virtually no possibility of managing the restoration processes, Oleg Soskovets thinks.

PRAVDA Reports Restoration, Public Opinion

MM2410171095 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Kozhanov: "Chechnya: Common Sense Against Military Ambitions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Television programs from Chechnya have trained us to see events there as just a permanent armed fight between the Chechen gunmen and the federal troops, accompanied by stormy rallies by supporters of Dzhokhar Dudayev. Meanwhile, there is a "third force" operating in the republic, and fairly actively, which the press frequently remains silent about, keeping its sights on the more "piquant" sensations smelling of blood. This force constitutes the truly selfless (we have somehow become unaccustomed to this word) labor of the Chechen workers and specialists, as well as those who have come to help them from all parts of Russia, who are literally under fire as they restore the cities and villages, roads, and power network.

In this connection it is appropriate to cite several figures from information prepared by the Russian Federation Ministry for Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy. As at now 1,170 km of high-voltage transmission lines have been restored, as well as seven of 38 bridges, and 105 bus routes are in operation. A total of 59 schools are functioning, and another 100 will start classes by November. Forty-five oil wells of the existing 155 are now working, which provides the republic with 4,500 tonnes of petroleum every day. Immediate plans include the construction of a new 250-meter television tower and the completion of work on heat and electric power stations. Regardless of all the political and military rows, preparations are going ahead for the Chechen Culture festivals in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Yaroslavl...

And in this sense, no matter how much the Dudayev-Basayev gang may run riot, the wind of change is apparently not filling their sails. A recent poll of the participants in a roundtable testifies to this; incidentally — over 90 percent of heads of local administrations, elders, and mullahs polled spoke in favor of Chechen sovereignty within Russia, a fact which shows that the majority of the population, dead-tired of the war, is rejecting Dzhokhar's appeals "to fight to the last Chechen."

Chechen Leader Khadzhiyev Interviewed

LD2310214495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1635 GMT on 18 October on its "Hero of the Day" program features Salambek Khadzhiyev, [then] chairman of the government of National Rebirth of Chechnya. Interviewed in the studio by Yevgeniy Kiselev on the day after the bombing of the Chechen village of Roshni-Chu, Khadzhiyev says his government has eyewitness evidence that the village was bombed by an aircraft, although he avoids Kiselev's question about who the aircraft belonged to, and says the military prosecutor's office should investigate the incident.

Asked by Kiselev who was responsible for the assassination attempt against General Anatoliy Romanov, commander of federal forces in Chechnya, Khadzhiyev replies: "Well, one thing is clear. The attack was carried out by those forces which want the continuation of such a difficult, half-war situation in Chechnya, that is obvious, because Romanov advocated the peace talks and ending the process by peaceful means. The question then arises: who wants the war to go on?"

Kiselev then presents a video recording from a recent "Itogi" program interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov, in which Khasbulatov says that a narrow circle around Dzhokhar Dudayev has an interest in continuing the war, as did certain temporary authorities that have torpedoed establishment of a stable power in Chechnya. Asked to comment, Khadzhiyev says such judgements are not intended to be taken seriously; the National Rebirth government wants peace and has insisted on holding elections. Khadzhiyev says that he would take part in elections if they are guaranteed to be honest, and if the structure of authority is such that a strong executive power is needed.

The National Rebirth government is not in favor of a state of emergency until firm and clear measures are taken to protect the civilian population, Khadzhiyev says, insofar as the government does not know whether it can control the actions of the military forces under a state of emergency. "We are having difficulty in doing so now, to judge by the aircraft [raids], so what would it be like under a state of emergency?"

Khadzhiyev says he believes the main part of the war is over, but the consequences of it will continue for another five years or so. Asked about Dudayev's future, he says

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that until such time as Dudayev has been tried and convicted, he has the same rights as any other citizen.

Moscow-Backed Leader's Resignation Eyed

MK2510100995 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 1

[Commentary by Dmitriy Kamyshev: "Road From One Position to Another Runs Via Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bombs were again exploding in Chechnya over the weekend. This time, they were personnel bombs. The situation around these "explosions" is no less involved than the one surrounding the bombings of mountain villages by unidentified planes: On Saturday [21 October], news agencies reported that Salambek Khadzhiyev had resigned from the post of chairman of the pro-Moscow government of Chechnya, with Khadzhiyev denying these reports Sunday. Yesterday, however, he did not only confirm his resignation but also named Doku Zavgayev, ex-speaker of the Checheno-Ingushetia Supreme Soviet, as his possible successor. [passage omitted]

The return to power in Chechnya of the republic's former "master" (in addition to heading the Supreme Soviet, Zavgayev also headed the oblast CPSU committee) may prove to be Moscow's most serious step since peace talks began in June. First, not only does the ex-speaker differ favorably from Khadzhiyev in the eyes of most Chechens in that he did not enter Groznyy "on the armor of Russian tanks," but he is also identified by many in the republic with the far from worst pre-Dudayev times (especially compared with today's situation). Second, once Zavgayev is appointed premier, revitalization of the Supreme Soviet, disbanded by Dudayev in 1991, will surely pick up speed, which will perhaps add to the temporary bodies of power in the republic the legitimacy they are so short of. It is true that this also is fraught with eventual conflicts within the Chechen leadership, because Umar Avturkhanov, who heads the National Salvation Committee [NSC], thinks the NSC is the only legitimate parliament. Zavgayev will have to put aside the rebuilding of Chechnya for some time to convince him of the opposite.

In all likelihood, it will not be a hard thing for the new premier to do. Judging by the fact that the replacement of the Chechen government head followed three days after Zavgayev's meeting with Chernomyrdin, the ex-speaker can count in his new post on the federal government's support. Besides, Zavgayev surely provided himself with all the necessary connections in the Kremlin and the [Russian] White House while working in the presidential administration's directorate for work with territories. It is not ruled out that, at least thanks to these connections, his activity in the new post is going to prove much more efficient than that of his predecessor. Then Moscow will be able to consider replacing other Chechen politicians who have gone out of fashion. Ex-speakers are still readily available in Russia.

Chernomyrdin Pledges Support to Zavgayev

LD2510103895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin assured the new Chechen premier of his resolute support to the peaceful settlement in the rebel republic.

Doku Zavgayev, who was appointed to head the Chechen National Revival government Tuesday, told reporters Wednesday that he had a telephone talk with Chernomyrdin who assured him "of a mighty support to efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Chechnya and the revival of the republic".

Zavgayev, who began his first day in the new position today, said the peace talks should go between various Chechen clans and forces, rather than between Chechen separatists and Russian authorities.

"This should be a dialogue between Chechens", he said adding that Russian federal authorities should provide "a constructive support" to the talks.

The new premier pledged to "cooperate with all parties and movements in Chechnya which represent various political strata of society".

He said his main task was to "achieve political stability" which would be the main precondition for economic revival.

Zavgayev had already held a meeting with the Russian military commanders which he characterised as "businesslike and constructive".

He said the Russian military expressed readiness to refrain from combat activities and even from response fire to Chechen attacks. However, Zavgayev stressed that it would be hard to achieve as "provocations on the whole territory of the Chechen republic continue".

Zorin Welcomes Government Reshuffle

LD2410130395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy October 24 (ITAR-TASS) — A top Russian administrator in Chechnya

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welcomed the reshuffling of the local Moscow-backed government saying "the step would serve the cause of consolidating all constructive forces in the republic".

Vladimir Zorin, acting Russian administrator in Chechnya, told TASS that the appointment of Doku Zavgayev as the new prime minister of the National Revival government "had ripened for long and was prepared by the whole course of developments in the republic".

Zorin praised former premier Salambek Khadzhiyev and leader Umar Avturkhanov for agreeing to resign and said that was "a wise step".

"New forces are advancing to the political arena which are capable of influencing the situation and, most important, the process of searching for a peaceful solution of the conflict in Chechnya".

Zavgayev was Soviet communist leader of Chechnya before his parliament was dissolved by separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev four years ago.

Both Khadzhiyev and Avturkhanov received senior government posts in Moscow.

Meszaros Leaves For Surgery in Budapest

LD2410182895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — Hungarian diplomat Sandor Meszaros, head of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Chechnya, has left Groznyy due to the state of his health. Apparently he will undergo an operation in one of Budapest's hospitals Wednesday, Director of the European Cooperation Department in Russia's Foreign Ministry Yuriy Ushakov told INTERFAX Tuesday in Moscow.

"Meszaros himself thought that he had pneumonia," Ushakov said. "However, physicians said that he had another illness and insisted on an operation," Ushakov said.

He made it clear that substantial time will be needed for post-operation rehabilitation of the patient and Meszaros, who planned to work in Chechnya until the end of 1995, will hardly be able to return to Groznyy. "However, everything will depend upon the state of his health," Ushakov said.

Olivier Pelen, a French by nationality, will fulfill the duties of the head of the OSCE mission in Chechnya, he said.

Attack on Nazran Airport in Ingushetia Detailed

LD2410194195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1858 GMT 24 Oct 95

[By Ruslan Maisigov and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAZRAN, Ingushetia, October 24 (ITAR-TASS) — One person was killed and two were wounded on Tuesday when a group of armed men landed in two helicopters in the airport of Nazran, capital of the Russian Republic of Ingushetia bordering rebel Chechnya, and opened fire inside the airport building.

Ruslan Tsechoyev, head of the local administration, told TASS that up to 12 attackers were dressed in Russian commando uniform while their helicopters carried Russian army markings.

Ingushetia Vice-President Boris Agapov told TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov by phone that presumably, the attack might have been caused by false reports that the airport had been allegedly seized by supporters of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

He said that from the early morning, representatives from Russian army and police tried to contact the Ingush leadership wanting to know whether such reports were true. Ingush leaders knew nothing of airport's seizure, but nevertheless sent there additional police forces, the vice-president said.

At about 14:30 (11:30 GMT) seven helicopters appeared over the airport and without landing opened fire at its territory, Agapov presented his version of the events.

Then, two helicopters landed and about 20 camouflage-clad servicemen rushed into the airport building, ordering all people inside to lie down on the floor. There were rather many people there waiting for the arrival of a plane from Moscow, and not all of them obeyed the command. Then, according to Agapov, attackers fired several shots at the ground.

"It is most possible that bullets ricocheted and hit people", Agapov said.

After that, he went on saying, the group commander apologised and choppers left apparently heading for Chechnya.

Agapov said that after the attack he contacted the command of federal troops in Chechnya and leadership of the Russian Security Service, but failed to obtain explanations.

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Interior Troops 'Not Involved'

LD2510115895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1052 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — Interior Ministry troops were not involved in blocking the airport in Sleptsovskaya, Ingushetia Tuesday, a spokesman for the troops told INTERFAX Wednesday.

He said Interior Ministry troops knew nothing about the operation. "Probably it was top secret," the official said.

The airport was blocked by seven helicopters and a landing group. Unconfirmed reports say the group came to neutralize Chechen militants but did not find them.

INTERFAX was informed that Russian military opened automatic fire several times killing one and wounding two persons.

Ingush Vice President Comments

LD2510131595 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1230 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] "Chechnya and Dudayev have absolutely nothing to do with it. Someone wants to provoke Ingushetia, to involve it in this war." This was how Boris Agapov, vice president of Ingushetia, in an interview with Moscow Echo radio station commented upon yesterday's attack on Sleptsovskaya airport.

"We must get to the truth," he stressed "for it's either another case of bungling or it was planned by someone."

"Seven helicopters, five of which remained in the air, attacked the airport. Two landed and let out a landing force," B. Agapov said. "According to the latest verified information, there are six wounded and one dead".

B. Agapov said that the landing force did not hide the fact that "they were from the group of airborne assault troops which is in Khankala airport. The military pilots can determine their position in the air very well and from what they saw on the ground they realized that they were not in Chechnya and could tell that it was an Ingush airport".

B. Agapov confirmed that 7 million rubles had been stolen from the airport till, 5 million rubles from the cafe till and $350 dollars from the exchange office. He said that "real robbery" was committed in the airport building. The proseuctor's office of Ingushetia has instituted criminal proceedings.

Maritime Kray Power Industry Crisis Leads to Cuts

MM2410143295 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Captain 2d Rank Nikolay Litkovets: "Where Are the Inhabitants of Maritime Kray To Be Rehoused? A State of Emergency Has Been Introduced in Maritime Kray Since 6 October Because of the Disastrous State of the Power Industry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Dalenergo" joint-stock company, not having received its money from electricity consumers, was unable to settle up with the coal miners. As a result the power stations' fuel reserves are far below the permisible norms. The situation is so serious that the power industry workers are not guaranteeing a sufficient level of energy and heat supplies to consumers in winter even if money starts raining down tomorrow like manna from heaven. But there is nowhere for it to come raining down from. The other day the head of "Dalenergo" returned from his latest trip to Moscow, but brought only promises of help. The Neryungra miners are prepared to deliver 220,000 tonnes of coal to the kray in the fourth quarter of the year, and the miners from the Khoronorskiy opencut offer 300,000 tonnes. But on one condition — money up front.

"Winter will be hard, winter will be terrible, there will be prolonged cuts" — that is the depressing picture painted for the inhabitants of Maritime Kray by "Dalenergy" deputy chief engineer Aleksandr Ius, speaking on local television.

In order to avoid the residential districts freezing to death in the winter, "priority" lists for power cuts are already being drawn up. On the lists are all the kray's enterprises except for those that provide vital services for the region — hospitals, bakeries, transport, water supplies and sewerage. The rest were instructed to shut down the production process by 13 October. For how many days or months, nobody can say.

The Maritime Kray miners are again threatening to suspend the dispatch of coal — as happened recently — unless they are paid their wages. If that happens, the power stations will shut down in two or three weeks. And then....

The kray's inhabitants remember the situation that occurred last year in Magadan Oblast, when two settlements had to be evacuated. In our case, the inhabitants of the whole kray would have to be rehoused. The question is — where?

Not all enterprises are in any hurry to fulfill the decisions of the kray commission on emergencies, but are continuing to operate; and meanwhile the population

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— the inhabitants of cities and villages — are suffering. The lights are going out in houses and apartments increasingly frequenlty, unsystematically, for six hours or more a day. How long will people's patience last?

North, South Ossetia Parliamentary Delegations Meet

LD2410202495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIKAVKAZ, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — Parliamentary delegations of North Ossetia and South Ossetia met in Vladikavkaz today.

Chairman of the South Ossetian State Council Lyudvig Chibirov confirmed the intention of the South Ossetian leadership to resolve the conflict between Georgia and South Ossetia through talks hosted by Russia and involving North Ossetia and the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe].

Parliamentarians from the two republics discussed cooperation between North Ossetia and South Ossetia in the socioeconomic, cultural and political areas. They also discussed the return home of refugees from Georgia and South Ossetia who found refuge in North Ossetia, the North Ossetian parliament's press service told INTERFAX.

The two republics' parliamentarians created a permanent inter-parliamentary commission for resolving the problems regarding the return home of refugees from South Ossetia and "Georgia's internal regions."

North Ossetia Urges Disarming of Illegal Formations

LD2410180295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1730 GMT 24 Oct 95

[By Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIKAVKAZ October 24 (ITAR-TASS) — There is a need for complete disarmament of illegal formations not only in the Caucasus but also all over Russia. Georgiy Kantemirov, North Ossetian Minister of the Interior, said this commenting at the request of ITAR-TASS on the decree of the President of North Ossetia "On urgent measures for stepping up the effort to combat crime and consolidate law and order in the republic." The decree was issued on Tuesday.

The minister said the decree does not go outside the framework of the operating constitutions of the Russian Federation and North Ossetia and is aimed above all at scaling down the crime rate, perfecting the structures of law enforcement bodies and advancing the plan for the development of the republic's interior ministry system.

"Our chief work is combatting crime and ensuring safety of the population," the minister said. Although the ratio of crimes solved by Ossetian militia is 72.3 percent, as against 64.8 percent for the whole of Russia, citizens often express dissatisfaction with the work of North Ossetian militia, the minister said.

Special concern is caused by the fact that local residents in the Northern Caucasus are in possession of a large number of arms, which leads to the growth of crime and encourages confronation. The events in neighbouring Chechnya have a negative impact on the situation as a whole. A broad federal programme to untie the "Chechen knot" will undoubtedly have a positive effect by decreasing the incidence of crime in the Northern Caucasus and will also help improve the Osset-Ingush relations. The minister believes there is a need for full disarmament of illegal formations not only in the Caucasus but also all over Russia.

The problem of refugees is one of the sore problems in the republic. There are now in the territory of North Ossetia 60 thousand refugees from Georgia, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Ingushetia, Chechnya, Central Asian states. This leads to the increase of the crime rate as people left at the mercy of fate and having no social guarantees are not law-abiding.

Economic Issues

Soskovets on Cooperation With World Bank

LD2410201795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — The Russian government and the World Bank must create a special commission to deal with the conversion of the Russian defense industry and to attract investments into the Russian military-industrial complex, Deputy Russian Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said at a meeting with World Bank head James Wolfenson in Moscow Tuesday.

The reconstruction of the Russian iron and steel industry can become another priority in the cooperation between Russia and the World Bank, said Soskovets. He said that Russia exports over 70 percent of its iron and steel. Such export is expected to total $7 billion in 1995. However, up to 60 percent of the metallurgical equipment is worn out and iron and steel plants are environmentally hazardous, said Soskovets.

He also said that Russia intends to cooperate with foreign companies and international financial institutions in the development of the Shtokman, Sakhalin and Timano-Pechora oil fields.

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Wolfenson said that the World Bank intends to provide $500 million to restructure the Russian coal industry and about as much to develop Russian agriculture.

Russian Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin told INTERFAX that Russia and the World Bank will soon sign the $500 million agreement on restructuring of the Russian coal industry.

Duma Passes Law on USSR Foreign Debt Restructuring

MK2410121195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "Deputies Intend To Ratify Agreements on the Restructuring of Foreign Debt. While Negotiating With the Paris and London Clubs, the Government Will Have To Look Back at the Parliamentarians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, the State Duma — by a vote of 240 in favor — passed, on three readings at once, the law "On International Agreements of the Russian Federation and the Succession With Respect to the USSR's State Foreign Debt and Assets, and the Restructuring of the USSR's State Foreign Debt." In accordance with this law, all international agreements of the Russian Federation regarding the succession with respect to the USSR's state foreign debt and assets and the restructuring of the foreign debt should be ratified by the Federal Assembly. Thus, the act passed aims at being retroactive: Not only future agreements on the restructuring of the foreign debt, but also the multilateral agreement on the succession with respect to the USSR's foreign debt and bilateral agreements of the Russian Federation with former Soviet republics, signed in 1991-1992, will have to be ratified.

According to Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Economic Policy, who is one of the law's authors, the foreign debt of the Soviet Union amounts to $104 billion. It is obvious, however, that the adoption of such a law is prompted not by the wish to have the agreements on the succession with respect to the USSR's foreign debt reviewed, but by the dissatisfaction with the character of the negotiations being carried out by the Russian Government with Western creditors. An explanatory note to the law criticizes the program of debt restructuring, which takes into account new debts made by Russia itself and envisions neither having the USSR's debts written off or remitted, nor converting them into property. Taking into account the great importance of the talks about debt restructuring on the implementation of the 1995 federal budget and on the main parameters of the 1996 budget — which has been more than once stressed, among others, by Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov — the deputies' desire to obtain the right to influence a decision on this matter is quite understandable.

Duma Member Against Low Privatization Share Prices

LD2410150495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1237 GMT 24 Oct 95

[By Robert Serebrennikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 24 (ITAR-TASS) — Sergey Burkov, chairman of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) Committee on Property, Privatisation and Economic Operations, challenged a statement by the leadership of the State Property Committee that the federal budget will receive (according to plans) 8,700 billion roubles by the end of 1995 from sales of the state-owned bloc of shares in privatised enterprises and their mortgaging.

"While the budget received slightly more than five percent of the above sum from privatisation over the first nine months in the current year," he said in an interview with ITAR-TASS, "it is highly improbable to count on more in the remaining period."

Burkov substantiated his opinion by a claim that demand for shares is now very limited, while commercial banks do not possess large free funds.

The chairman also expressed apprehensions that the price of shares purchased on mortgage will be "extremely low". He noted that those who want to work with share mortgage, press for the most optimum and favourable conditions.

"We shall be appalled when we see that shares of major Russian ports and shipping lines will be sold for the price of several dozen cars," the legislator stressed. Besides, the announced sales of state-owned blocs of shares of 136 privatised enterprises may inflict a blow on Russia's economic independence and economic potential.

Burkov stressed that sales of state-owned blocs of shares of privatised enterprises must be based only on a federal bill on disposing state-owned blocs of shares of joint stock societies established during privatisation, which was adopted by the State Duma.

Bank Reserve Requirements To Be Eased 1 Nov

MK2510064195 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Banks To Have an Easier Life"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The mandatory limits of banks' remittances to reserve funds will be lowered starting

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1 November, First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said. He issued a corresponding instruction to the State Revenue Service, the Finance Ministry, and the Central Bank, assigning them the task of drawing up an interdepartmental letter easing the reserve remittance requirements by 1 November. He also said that he had signed a draft government decree lifting export duties on a number of commodities, particularly ferrous metallurgy and chemical and petrochemical industry products.

Khandruyev Denies Central Bank Chair Nomination

MK2510063195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "Aleksandr Khandruyev Has Received No Proposal To Head the Central Bank. He Knows, However, What Qualities an Ideal Chief Banker of the Country Should Possess"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As Aleksandr Khandruyev, first deputy chairman of the Central Bank, told journalists yesterday, he learned from newspapers that his name was on the list of probable candidates to the post of Central Bank head. In his words, since this question is of rather urgent importance now, it is quite natural that candidates are being searched for both outside and inside the bank itself. Other contenders named include Aleksandr Livshits, aide to the president on economic matters; Sergey Dubinin, former finance minister; Dmitriy Tulin, Russia's representative at the IMF; and Yakov Dubenetskiy, chairman of Promstroybank. Mr. Khandruyev especially emphasized that, in accordance with the Law on the Central Bank, Tatyana Paramonova, who is now the Central Bank's acting chairperson, can once again be nominated for the post. Aleksandr Khandruyev gave assurances that he had received no proposal to head the Central Bank yet, and therefore he will start thinking about the possibility of his moving a step up in the Central Bank's management when such a proposal is voiced.

Aleksandr Khandruyev replied negatively to the question of whether he considers it unreasonable to appoint a permanent head of the Central Bank before the parliamentary election. In his opinion, Tatyana Paramonova's work has shown that having an "acting" official under conditions of an unstable political and economic situation has a very negative effect. Mr. Khandruyev believes that it is in the interests of all branches of power now to have a strong chairman of the Central Bank with authority to form bank management bodies and to make strategically considered decisions. To Aleksandr Khandruyev, an ideal head of the Central Bank should possess three main qualities — to be a professional; a diplomat; and a good bureaucrat, that is, a person who can make timely decisions in keeping with the letter and spirit of the law.

Foreign Trade Turnover With 'Far Abroad' Increases

LD2410175295 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Economics Ministry has reported that, despite rather skeptical forecasts, in the January-September period of this year Russia's foreign trade turnover with the "far abroad" countries has amounted to $72.9 billion, an increase of almost 29 percent on the same period of last year. Export turnover was $47.9 billion (an increase of 31 percent) and import — $25 billion (an increase of almost 25 percent).

Finance Minister Panskov on Budget, Fiscal Issues

964F0135A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 41, 11 Oct 95 p 10

[Roundtable interview with Russia's Minister of Finance Vladimir Panskov by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA staff under the "Club 206" rubric; date not given: "I Do Not Want the Country To Produce More Iron Than Anyone and Then Go Around in Worn-out Shoes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [A. Udaltsov, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA editor-in-chief] My first question, of course, is about Chechnya. If there is a war there, then money has been spent somewhere. But the government reports that no additional funds are being allotted for Chechnya. So who is paying for the war? Where is the money for the restoration of Groznyy coming from?

[Panskov] I would divide the answer into two parts. In the first place, in all probability we have spent 1-2 trillion [R] on the war. It seems strange to you to hear an approximate figure from a finance minister. But I simply do not know the exact one. Because we are indeed waging a war without spending money for it on the Army, the police, etc. Naturally, wars do not happen free of charge. In the 1995, budget the Army was allotted R46 trillion. In fact, within the limits of these figures we are perhaps financing somewhat less. The defense minister himself distributes the allocations and decides how much to give the soldiers in the war. The norm is higher than usual for them but still Grachev is not allotting all the money due, say, to pilots in Chita (as a result, they are flying less or not flying at all, although they should) or for some garrisons the food is limited, the norm is decreased in some places, and in some places they are taking from the emergency ration.

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If in Groznyy in December in two hours they did away with....

In the second place, money is being allotted for restoration. Here I can give figures because we are keeping strict accounts. We have already spend about R2 trillion. Mainly on housing and also on social grants to victims. It is not very much at all—R100,000 per person (the president recently issued an edict according to which the norms will be increased, but we will have to decide where the money will come from). In addition to housing, we are restoring schools (the work has been completed on most of them), hospitals, and polyclinics.

We have calculated the budget for Chechnya: It needs R850 billion in order to have a more or less tolerable existence. We have already paid wages to teachers and doctors, which have been due them since 11 December of last year.

Where are we getting the money for this? Frankly, by reducing expenditures on other programs, mainly investment programs. It is written into this year's budget that the volume of investments will be R18.8 trillion. Within these limits we are not allotting full amounts to some, and we are removing small amounts and pumping them into Chechnya. So, of course, it is not free of charge. But if the military actions are limited to the framework of the budget established for the Army, the police, and the special services, the restoration of the economy will require additional funds, and the government will take this to the State Duma in the next few days. We will ask that expenditures from the federal budget be increased by more than R5 trillion and taken from above-plan revenues.

[L. Grafova, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA observer] The man in the street gets the impression that the war in Chechnya is a black hole into which you could throw all of Russia. You said that the money that is going into Groznyy is coming out of investment programs. What if, God forbid, the situation there gets worse tomorrow and what has been restored is destroyed once again. As chairman of the Coordination Council for Aid to Refugees and Forced Resettlers, I ask this question on behalf of the refugees: Can we not finally come to our senses and stop throwing money into the black hole and give it to those who have lost everything in Chechnya and have come to be rescued in Russia?

[Panskov] This question is inevitable. It arises not only, as you put it, for the man in the street, but also for politicians.

Today we are not investing money in the restoration of Chechnya's economy, we are not restoring, figuratively speaking, any "Red Sickle Plant" (although I will admit that the draft budget for next year includes R2 trillion for the restoration of Chechnya's economy). No, we are speaking about somehow helping the suffering citizens of the Russian Federation (it is not important whether or not they were to blame for what happened). Winter is around the corner and the people have nowhere to live. Do we not have to create the elementary conditions so that they will have a roof over their heads? A clinic for the sick, and schools for the children? The school year will begin on 15 October. There are no desks, there are no textbooks, there is nothing. We have to give them all of that.

[Grafova] But 200,000 former residents of Chechnya do not have roofs over their heads in Russia either.

[Panskov] The people who suffered as a result of the tragedies are to be issued housing certificates.

[Grafova] Refugees are being lured to Chechnya with this. Only there can they receive R100,000 or a million (according to the president's new edict). Nowhere else.

[Panskov] In September, when I traveled to Chechnya, Oleg Ivanovich Lobov and I reached an agreement that we would allot R30 billion for rendering aid to victims. We will give the money to the Federal Migration Service, to Tatyana Mikhaylovna Regent. I do not believe that she should give it only to those who live on the territory of Chechnya. She should give it to everyone. The questions you raise are correct. Perhaps the refugees should be the first to receive aid but, as far as I know, there are no programs to help them so far.

[Udaltsov] At one time Anatoliy Chubays wrote an article in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA entitled "Golden Rain Will Fall on Russia." The author had investments in mind. But when?

[Panskov] This will depend on many factors, above all, as you understand quite well, political ones. During the past half year foreign investors have taken a wait-and-see attitude. They are waiting to see what will happen to Russia after the elections. They are afraid of changes in the system.

There are also quite a few problems with taxes and the legal base. But still they are coming to us. Here is the Mars company. It not only produces Snickers—it is building an enormous enterprise here and shipping in equipment. Alas, not everyone is deciding to do this.

[Udaltsov] So the golden rain of investments will fall after a successful completion of the elections?

[Yu. Solomonov, deputy editor-in-chief of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] Or after the war in Chechnya?

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[Panskov] I do not think that will be reflected in the situation with investments. At first it had an impact, but now it does not. In the West they understand that neither the economic nor the political situation in Russia will change because of the war in Chechnya. Regardless of how the war ends, regardless of what happens there. Of course, Chechnya is a disaster for Russia, a pain in our heart, a pain in our soul. But will Chechnya drive off investors? I say no. The investor will look at something else: The extent to which this conflict threatens their capital.

[Yu. Stroyev, official secretary of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] Recently the International Monetary Fund determined that reforms in Russia are proceeding well and allotted us another $550 million. I would like to know where this money is going, what criteria the IMF uses to evaluate us, and how you evaluate the course of the reform.

[Panskov] All money from international organizations goes through the budget. It goes mainly to pay off the loans of the former USSR. Now about the criteria. The amount of the money supply in circulation, the level of inflation, the budget deficit, etc. characterize the condition of the economy. And we are maintaining the necessary parameters. Except for the level of inflation. Today it should be about 2 percent and in September it was 4.5 percent. But when making the decision to allot credit, the IMF closed its eyes to this because Russia has come up with very large gold currency reserves; the amount corresponds to world standards (although it was this indicator that was reflected in the inflation).

As for my assessment of the reforms...we have had certain successes, but I would not draw any glowing conclusions. A period of shaky equilibrium has begun. We have stopped declining rapidly and ended up on marshy soil. Which way will we go? Will we go the bottom again or will we begin to quietly crawl out? The budget projection of the rates of decline in industry was 10-12 percent but it has only been 3 percent. This is good. This is success. From what? Metallurgy has taken an upward swing, chemistry has begun to grow. But agriculture, processing, and light industry continue to decline.

[Stroyev] We have been through this, we have already been the first in the world for smelting metal....

[Panskov] That is just it. Therefore I do not wish to draw any far-reaching conclusions from the current tendencies. I do not wish to take pride in a situation where we will be producing more iron, steel, and electric energy than anyone else...and we are going around in worn-out shoes.

[A. Tarasov, department editor at LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] A couple of months after the introduction of the "foreign exchange corridor," can you tell us who stood to gain from this and who stood to lose?

[Panskov] The government, the Ministry of Finance, and the Central Bank did not lose but they created additional difficulties for themselves by taking on enormous political and economic obligations. Certain of our critics say that the exporters are suffering. But the "corridor" more or less guarantees them stability: The dollar will not drop below R4,300. It is not that dollar will drop because the "corridor" has been established; rather the "corridor" has been established so as not to allow the dollar to drop.

You understand that when it began to drop, the Central Bank, and above all Tatyana Paramonova, made titanic efforts so that it would not go below the 4,000 mark. Otherwise there would have been a catastrophe. The exporters would have sustained the losses. And the population would also have suffered, because $10-$20 billion are in their hands today.

I recall that bankers and big businessmen said: "It is impossible to work, we do not know where you will put the dollar, we do not know the future. How can we conclude agreements for the sale or, conversely, for the purchase of products?" Now they know for sure that the dollar will not drop below 4,300 before 1 January. If you have noticed, we are even afraid of letting it drop to 4,400.

You will say: Alright, you have established a "corridor," but does that mean that you can regulate the dollar? Of course. But again, we are not the ones who determine the exchange rate. It is established on the Interbank Exchange. True, the Central Bank can see that today it has offered to exchange $500 million and the demand for exchange is a billion. In order to make sure that the exchange rate does not leap up in a moment, the Central Bank puts in 500 or 400 million. Of course, you cannot do that every day, for if you do the bank will quickly exhaust its reserves. There are other instruments for regulation and we use them extensively in order to remain within the accepted framework.

[Udaltsov] The editors of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, like other institutions, have to send and receive money to and from somewhere almost every day. We are noticing that the process of the movement of the money from bank to bank is slowing up. Everyone blames the unfortunate interbank crisis. What is going on here?

[Panskov] I will not try to conceal the fact that nobody has completely figured out what is going on. There is

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indeed a crisis. Its scale? I do not know. Because the crisis is also being deliberately blown out of proportion by certain banking structures. In recent years they have learned to play with the exchange rate of the dollar. They have taken risks but they have played well. This is a normal process. They took advantage of the economic situation but they did not prepare themselves for the fact that sooner or later it would change and that it is necessary to work with producers (the scale of this work is extremely small so far). Difficulties arose. I am experiencing them even with the budget: In September taxes amounted to approximately two-thirds of the August level. And it was not that the taxpayers began to pay less—they are paying just as much. But the banks have no money and certain of them are artificially delaying transfers. Including yours. Because today it is necessary to settle accounts and pay debts.

[Yu. Shekochikhin, member of the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA editorial board] According to figures from the Customs Committee of Russia, about $19 billion of our citizen's money is in the West. Customs workers are hoping to bring home at least a billion of this money this year. What do you think, will this money work for the Russian economy? Or is it gone for good?

[Panskov] I do not know what the overall sum is. I do not think that anybody does. Money that moves to the West, as a rule, belongs to nobody personally. Most of it belongs to firms and former state enterprises that exported their products abroad. And the money remained in accounts there. I must say that it went abroad during 1992-1993 and part of 1994. Today the channels of escape are almost all blocked.

Of course, you cannot make this money come back by force. But probably half of the investments coming into Russia are from money that we lost at one time. For example, a certain oil refinery left capital on the other side of the border. Now it is being sent back here—under a different flag—and being invested in the economy.

[Yu. Kulikov, deputy editor in chief of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] In many countries, one person is in charge of both finances and the economy. Why do we have two ministries? I can imagine a situation where Yevgeniy Yasin and his team come up with certain reforms. Money is needed for the reforms. It goes to you. But what if you do not give them the money? How are your relations with the Ministry of the Economy? Do you work together to "calculate the cost" of new ideas? Or do you calculate them at all?

[Panskov] You will recall that a year and a half or two years ago the newspapers were filled with reports of bickering between Fedorov and Gerashchenko. There was no mention of the Ministry of the Economy at that time. Today we understand that it is impossible to work when the Central Bank is pulling in one direction, the Ministry of Finance—in another, and the Ministry of the Economy—in a third.

No project can proceed, of course, without the Ministry of Finance. We work in complete cooperation with Yasin. He has certain ideas, but at the same time he is well aware that there is R18.8 trillion for investment programs in the country. You can keep within these limits and experiment. Naturally, Yasin does not throw money left and right. We divide it into portions and agree: This will go for the social sphere, that will go for industrial projects. Let us say that we give the Duma R3 trillion for investment programs on a competitive basis. Yasin establishes the conditions, the enterprises come with their plans, and the Ministry of the Economy conducts competitions and says who will get what. The ministry is also an arbiter which makes a conclusion regarding one project or another.

[O. Moroz, member of the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA editorial board] You mentioned the bickering of your predecessor in the post of minister, Fedorov. Boris Grigoryevich is not afraid of harsh statements. Recently he spoke out on the pages of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA and, criticizing the government, used the term "ruin of the budget"—in his opinion, the reason for this is that wages are not paid for months at budget-financed enterprises. What do you have to say about this?

[Panskov] Well, of course, Boris Grigoryevich had nothing to ruin—the country lived without a budget at all when he was in office.

Now we have a budget (whether it is good or bad is another subject). But while criticizing us for the fact that a teacher in Moscow or Kostroma is not receiving his wages, Fedorov knows that the state budget has nothing to do with this. Because the teacher receives his wages from the budget of Moscow or the budget of Kostroma. Any civilized country has a federal budget and there are completely independent budgets for the regions. They have their own taxes. They collect them and must pay for immediate needs. But the federal government is helping them. It granted a loan to the regions in the amount of R350 billion. In a couple of days we will transfer additional money to the local organs for wages for teachers.

[A. Gasparyan, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA observer] We have been witnesses to disputes among the regions: Some defend equal rights in the payment of taxes to the state budget while others demand a dif-

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ferentiated approach, pointing to national peculiarities. What is your position?

[Panskov] This question should not even be discussed. The tax system is not arranged according to the principle of differentiation. There may be peculiarities. But they are related to the economy and not to whether the component of the Federation is a republic or an oblast.

[R. Rishina, division editor at LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] At a government meeting recently Minister Yevgeniy Sidorov presented the concept of the development of culture (everyone is aware of its impoverished condition). Will this statement be reflected in the budget?

[Panskov] The mere fact that something is discussed in the White House does not automatically lead to an immediate change in the situation. One must not think that since there was a government meeting on Thursday, culture will receive more money on Friday. Not because the Minister of Finance has not done a good job but because there is a budget and there are taxes. But the discussion will provide an impetus and the government will make certain commitments if it agrees with the concept. There will be no sharp improvement next year. Improvement—yes. In general in the federal budget we have moved significantly in the direction of education, public health, etc.

[Udaltsov] In the apparatus of the Ministry of Finance of Russia are there many workers of the former USSR Ministry of Finance?

[Panskov] About 20 percent, I think. Possibly less. The majority preferred commercial structures. Of course, the Ministry of Finance lost a certain amount of skill because of this. I cannot say that I have a weak staff. We have very skilled deputy ministers, department managers, and specialists. But the overall level of the staff, of course, is lower than it was in the Union. The staff must be reinforced. But how can we reinforce it when wages are so low?! Any department manager, not to mention deputy ministers, can quite easily get a job with a minimum of a thousand dollars. Our average wage (it all depends on whether or not we are paying a bonus in the given month)—is R700,000.

[Kulikov] LITERATURNAYA GAZETA wrote: The average wage in the Central Bank last December was R13 million.

[Panskov] I think that is wrong if the other state bureaucrats receive one-tenth this amount. A certain equality of rights (not leveling) is needed. I say and will continue to say that in the Ministry of Finance, wages should be higher than in any other. Because the tasks performed by the Ministry of Finance and the level at which it is loaded are extremely high.

But anyway, the wages of a bureaucrat in the Ministry of Finance may exceed the wages of a bureaucrat in another ministry by about 10-20 percent but no more. So far we have a closed circle: We cannot give the bureaucrat a decent wage since he has not set up his work, and he does not set up his work since the wages are so small.

[Solomonov] In whose brilliant minds does the figure that determines the minimum wage originate? Do these people know how much it costs for a person to travel on Moscow transportation? How can you come up with a minimum wage that amounts to two fares?

[Panskov] You will not find a single person in the country who receives the minimum wage. But why do we need this indicator? It is to a certain degree a nominal unit necessary for taxation, for various deductions, and for calculating social pensions. Under conditions of inflation this point of departure, a calculation unit, must exist. Although when the minimum wage was introduced in 1992 it was linked to the wage rate schedule that existed in budget organizations. Over the past three years the dependency has disappeared. But it is impossible to abolish it. And it is unrealistic to set the minimum wage at R300,000.

Recently we adopted a law on the subsistence minimum and, consequently, nobody has the right to receive wages below a little more than R200,000. Where are we supposed to get them? The heads of the administrations (incidentally, all of them are in the Federation Council) come to me: "Help, we have nothing with which to pay the teachers." I ask: "Why do you have this indebtedness?" "Well, what do mean, why? When the teacher's wages were R120,000-150,000, we found the money. As soon as the salaries were raised, we ran out of money. We were forced to withhold payment." "And who," I said, "raised the wages?" "Yeltsin signed the law." "Excuse me, what does Yeltsin have to do with this? You adopted the law and you voted 'yes' in the Federation Council."

[Kulikov] Yesterday we received a letter from Germes— LITERATURNAYA GAZETA is invited to participate in a competition for the best articles on this company and they promise a monthly prize of up to $7,000. So there is money, but the investors are complaining about the vouchers: They are not receiving dividends. What do you advise them?

[Panskov] Russia's problem is that we rushed head-long into the market without preparing for it. In a civilized country the government does not take responsibility for

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dividends that somebody does not pay. In a civilized.... But the appropriate laws are just now beginning to appear in Russia. Our people see the advertising clip on TV and believe it all. That is the way we were educated.

What are MMM coupons? Nothing. If I were to offer you my photographs at $100 each, you would laugh, even if I promised to give you $200 later, is that not true?

When I was a child there was a game called postcards: If you would write five you would receive 100 back. But even then there were many people who did not believe it, who understood that it was a hoax.

It is impossible simply to acquire a large amount of money. Even at the expense of your loved ones.

[Solomonov] Are the "Naperstochniki" violating the law? In any case, they are being driven out. But how is Germes any better?

[Panskov] How is the government or the Ministry of Finance to blame for that? In that it did not sufficiently explain to the people: Do not go with MMM, etc. But do you know how much we have to pay for advertising? It costs $36,000 a minute. I do not have that kind of money.

[L. Velikanova, department editor at LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] What will happen to the contributions taken from the population in 1992? There is a law about this. Will the government react?

[Panskov] The law adopted by the Duma is not concrete. How do we execute it? If we were to index all the contributions, I think it would be necessary to spend three annual budgets. Judge for yourself, is that feasible? Can we execute the law gradually? That would take 30 years. Would the pensioners like that?

We have to come up with a mechanism. And the government is thinking about this. Perhaps a panacea—introducing private ownership of the land? Indexation would be another scam. A person wants his interest—there is no money, he wants his contribution back—that is certainly not possible.

[Stroyev] Will there be monetary reform in the country? Does Russia need it?

[Panskov] I have only two hands. I will not let them be cut off.

When asking that question, you know quite well that nobody will ever tell the truth. I will just say this. It is impossible to conduct such reform today. The costs would be too great, and neither the political nor the economic conditions exist. There will be no reform in the next few months or years. What could happen (again, not today or tomorrow, and not in 1996)? A change of the scale of prices? But I do not think that will happen in the next year and a half or two years.

[Moroz] We know that nobody will ever tell us the truth. But tell us a secret: Is there a departmental instruction on how to conduct such reforms?

[Panskov] In the olden days (and in other times as well) five or six people might know about the fact that the country was preparing for a monetary reform. No more.

Let me tell one story. In October 1982 Brezhnev signed the decree of the Central Committee and Council of Ministers on raising prices of sugar, bread, and bakery items. They decided to enact the decree effective 1 December (it was impossible to do such things during the holidays, especially 7 November). And there was to be full compensation for people with low wages (I no longer recall the exact amount at the time). The price increase was supposed to teach the citizens how to save. The chairman of the government Tikhonov, Minister Garbuzov, Valentin Pavlov, and myself, working as chief of the budget department at the time, knew about this measure.

[Kulikov] Well, Andropov probably knew too.

[Panskov] Just imagine—he did not. And so Brezhnev signed the paper, and then he died on 10 November. Andropov was elected General Secretary. Naturally, he was immediately informed of the decree. He said: "What do you mean?! A new person comes in and he begins by raising the prices of bread?..." They rescinded it.

That is how such decisions are prepared. But just think of the president today conducting a monetary reform, he would have to have the corresponding law. Only the Duma can adopt it. So there will be no secrets. After this who needs a monetary reform?

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International Affairs

Press Secretary Recounts Kuchma New York Activities

LD2410141395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct 24 (Interfax - Ukraine) — In the course of his stay for the celebrations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in New York Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma had a number of meetings and addressed several audiences.

Thus, in particular, Leonid Kuchma met some important American businessmen, including representatives of such firms as Monsarto, General Motors, Conagro, Westinghouse and others, Presidential Press Secretary Dmytro Markov told Interfax-Ukraine. On the same day the President delivered a speech at the East-West Institute.

The President had a number of bilateral meetings including with Estonian President Lennart Meri, Uzbek President Islam Karimov and Slovak Premier Michal Kovac.

Leonid Kuchma visited the University of Columbia and addressed the students and the teaching stuff of the Harriman School where he was awarded the prize "For World Leadership."

Later in the day Leonid Kuchma inaugurated the new building of the Ukrainian Mission to the United Nations.

D. Markov also disclosed that Leonid Kuchma had not met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the course of his visit to New York.

Kuchma Opposes Yeltsin Strategy on Partnership Ties

LD2510091595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0806 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Aleksey Berezhkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW YORK, October 25 (Itar-Tass) — "Ukraine wants to have equal partnership relations with Russia, but not on the basis of a strategy recently announced by Boris Yeltsin," said here on Tuesday Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, now on a visit in New York.

Speaking before members of the U.S. business community, he noted that "there are forces in Russia, which do not want to understand that Ukraine is a sovereign state, and this is the main thing worrying us in relations with Russia".

"I want to stress again that we see in Russia a strategic partner who is our great neighbour," Kuchma continued. "We have a great historic past. We abided and shall abide by this. We only want Russia to follow the road of democratic development.

"I believe that this is our common task. However, we have always opposed and shall oppose those who regard Ukraine through the eye of Moscow. I'm glad that this finds growing understanding in the United States in the recent past."

As for other republics of the former Soviet Union, Kuchma said that he advocates "bilateral relations with them and is against turning the Commonwealth of Independent States into a supra-state structure". "We regard it as a consultative body mostly for economic cooperation," he stressed.

Marchuk Comments on Trade Talks With Russia

LD2410183795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The agreement "On a free trade regime" signed with Russia is virtually not being implemented. As a result of this, and also due to some customs obstacles imposed by the Russian side in the way of fuel supplies, Ukraine has lost 1.5 billion dollars this year alon, Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk said at a meeting with Dutch Finance Minister Gerrit Zalm.

Marchuk said 200 groups of products are not subject to the free trade regime with Russia.

Marchuk said Ukraine and Russia began "difficult talks" at the expert level on the free trade regime. The prime minister said that during his visit to Colombia he agreed with the Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets that he would discuss the issue at a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. According to Marchuk, "these will be rather difficult negotiations, but we will be forced to respond in a similar way if Russia does not change the trade regime."

Marchuk expressed the hope that the problem would be solved at the forthcoming talks scheduled for early November; however, "the election campaign in Russia and its domestic problems prove that this would be a difficult task."

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Proposals to Russia on Financial-Industrial Groups

MK2510073295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine Approaches Russia With Proposals on Setting Up Financial-Industrial Groups"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine's Economics Ministry has submitted to the appropriate Russian agencies its proposals on setting up financial-industrial groups. At issue are united efforts in ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, agricultural and chemical machine building, shipbuilding, power engineering, and oil and gas extraction and processing. Under the Ukrainian project, over 150 joint-stock companies, state-owned enterprises, banks, and research institutes of both countries will participate in setting up 19 transnational production and technology complexes.

Official: Border Talks May Begin With or Without Russia

LD2410160595 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1440 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no date as received]: "If Russia continues to delay negotiations on delineation and demarcation of the Ukrainian-Russian border, Ukraine may begin this process unilaterally," Kostyantyn Hryshchenko, deputy foreign affairs minister, said at a regular briefing at the Foreign Affairs Ministry on 24 October.

State border delineation is progressing most successfully with Belarus, while there are certain problems with Moldova. Working groups will begin to resolve the practical issues of delineating the Ukraine-Moldovan border in the near future.

The border between Ukraine and Russia remains the most complex, Kostyantyn Hryshchenko emphasized. We have not managed to begin this process for the last three years. Russia did not support the draft agreement on border issues cooperation proposed by Ukraine.

National Affairs

Authorities Cut Off Power to Black Sea Fleet

LD2510095595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0812 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SEVASTOPOL October 25 (Itar-Tass) — The disputed Black Sea fleet had to switch on its own electricity-generating units as authorities of its major naval base of Sevastopol cut power supplies to it over debts.

All mobile electricity producing stations and power generators have been switched on to provide electricity to warships and coastal installations in the main base of the Navy in the Crimea.

Several days ago Vladimir Pechnikov, the director of the local "Sevastopolenergo" power distribution company, officially informed the fleet command that he was cancelling the agreement on power supplies to the Navy because of debts.

Besides, the "Sevastopolenergo" company plans to sue the fleet and return the nearly 1.5-trillion karbovanets debt (nearly 10 million USD) for supplied electricity.

The power cutoff was undertaken upon the Ukrainian government resolution to switch off electricity to all debtors.

Moroz on Draft Constitution's Passage Through Parliament

LD2410174295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The passage of the draft Ukrainian Constitution through parliament "will be difficult," Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz believes. In his speech today to the chairmen of local state administrations studying at the institute for improving qualifications at the Ukrainian State Management Academy, he emphasized that in his opinion the Constitution ought to be adopted by the Supreme Council or a congress of councils, together with the Supreme Council, and not by a Ukraine-wide referendum.

According to the Supreme Council chairman, the constitutional process is impeded by an "argument over certain provisions of the draft constitution," in particular the territorial system, the organization of power, and local self-government.

"One cannot allow the practice of parallel law-making to be created now," Oleksandr Moroz stressed. According to him, "the division of authorities in Ukraine should be fully guaranteed as follows: The Supreme Council writes the laws, and the executive authorities implement them, and do not write laws in the form of decrees, resolutions, or instructions."

Kuchma Rules Out Introducing National Currency 'This Year'

LD2510105595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0203 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 25 Oct — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, who is in New York for the

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festivities to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, ruled out the possibility of introducing the national currency, the hryvnya, this year. However, he noted that "there is no sense in drawing out this process."

At a meeting with U.S. business people, Kuchma, replying to a question of when it was planned to introduce the hryvnya and what investors could expect from this, said: "Above all we really need a monetary reform aimed at achieving financial stability. We will not implement it this year, but there is no sense in drawing it out. Moreover, everything is virtually ready for this. As a precondition for introducing the hryvnya, we would like to achieve a reduction in the inflation rate of 10-20 percent. Apart from this we are conducting talks on credits from the stabilization fund of the World Bank."

Crimea Appeals to Kuchma To Aid Economy

LD2410175095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, [no date as received] — The Supreme Council presidium and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Crimea have asked Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to take immediate measures on a state scale to stabilize the socioeconomic situation on the peninsula. The appeal was made public in the Crimean mass media on 24 October.

The document notes that Crimea cannot get out of the economic crisis independently. The severance of economic links, the considerable proportion of enterprises undergoing conversion, the aftermath of last year's drought combined with chronic mutual arrears have undermined the Crimean budget and led to a steep fall in the people's living standards.

The measures proposed to improve the situation include halting the decline in production by economic integration with traditional partners in the CIS countries, altering taxation policy for the benefit of domestic goods producers, supporting them at state level, resolving the problem of mutual arrears, stimulating sectors of the national economy and individual producers who create new jobs.

Lazarenko Arrives in Lugansk on 'Fact-Finding Mission'

WS2510095995 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0801 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Tuesday, October 24 Ukraine's First Vice-Premier Pavlo Lazarenko arrived in Lugansk to start his business tour of the region.

Mr. Lazarenko stated his visit's aim as a fact-finding mission in the crisis-affected region.

The First Vice-Premier met with the Lugansk mayor, regional and municipal administration officers, CEOs of coal-mining associations, and was expected to visit several enterprises in the city including the diesel locomotive manufacturing works "LuganskTeplovoz."

Donetsk Leader Shcherban Promotes Economic Reforms

WS2510080995 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 4

["Exclusive" interview with Donetsk Oblast Administration Chairman Volodymyr Shcherban, by Volodymyr Katsman; place and date not given: "Donetsk Governor Volodymyr Shcherban: 'I Am on the Presidential Team a Hundred and One Percent'" — first paragraph is KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Donbass has always been considered a complex region in terms of politics. It is no accident that there is the largest number of registered political parties, movements, and public organizations in this region. Since Volodymyr Shcherban was elected chairman of the Donetsk Oblast Council in 1994 (he was later appointed head of the Oblast Administration), there has been less polarization and tension in Donbass; even his political opponents have to recognize the high professional qualities, energy, and purposefulness of the Donetsk governor. Volodymyr Shcherban has granted an exclusive interview to a KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI correspondent.**

[Katsman] What is currently the most difficult thing in your work?

[Shcherban] The most difficult thing is to change people's consciousness. Reforms have stalled in our region for a long time. Now that the presidential team has made its first steps, one can sense resistance, and what is more, not only from people who will always be against reforms. People often resist something they do not understand well — this is not their fault, this

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is our common woe. I think we have no ideology for reforms. The mentality of our compatriots is that if they see the final goal, they can suffer for a certain period of time.... Moreover, if we seriously intend to carry out reforms, we must give the regions more independence in administrating and resolving issues, and in which Kiev does not have to interfere at all. In any event, the talk is not about separatism.

[Katsman] In one of your first appearances as governor, you said that reforms must be conducted in a rigid and decisive manner....

[Shcherban] I am not going to denounce this even today. It must be specified, however, that we need rigidity and decisiveness in the process of conducting economic policy. We have no time to argue or convince someone....

[Katsman] Donbass was earlier dubbed the "all-Soviet furnace." Later, when miners' unrest and strikes began, it was called the "explosive region." How should it be termed now?

[Shcherban] Shoots of market-like relations are currently sprouting in many branches in Donbass, and the market economy dictates the following law: The country's power engineering industry should be based on the least expensive energy sources. For us this is coal. Yet, the coal industry has been forgotten for the past 15 years, and this began within the former USSR. Not a single ruble was spent on the amortization of mines. We will never escape the need to close certain mines and apply new technologies. The main thing is that we must change the structure of the entire coal industry and use new approaches toward management. It is impossible to introduce the market economy with the old concepts of running the production sector, the region, the economy, and the country.... I would currently like to call Donbass a promising region, despite the fact that a way to achieve this will not be easy.

[Katsman] What would be your attitude toward the idea of handing over, for example, some coal mining companies to private businessmen?

[Shcherban] The state should live on taxes, and it is businessmen who will pay the state taxes. My attitude toward the idea of introducing any forms of ownership in the coal mining industry would be normal; I will repeat, any form of ownership should exist, including private. Let us understand, however, that until there is a motivation to work, until we make every shaft sinker and foreman interested in the results of their work, we will not achieve anything. Selling shares in companies, handing them over to private hands, investment, and setting up joint ventures with the West and former Soviet republics — all of this — will enable us to make people interested in their work.... We should now raise our own capitalists, our Morgans, Rockefellers, and others, who will then buy half of America using our assets....

[Katsman] Some people are already eager to call you not only "the leader of the powerful Donetsk lobby," but also "one of the future presidential hopefuls...."

[Shcherban] A soldier who does not dream about becoming general is a bad soldier. I frankly admit, however, that it is currently more interesting for me to work in my region. The people of Donbass have entrusted me with their fate; I should do everything, so that they live at least slightly better.... I am interested in reforming the economy. I am not fond of political ambitions, though I understand that it will be impossible to reform the economy without correct political decisions. Plus, one soldier in the field is not enough....

[Katsman] Putting aside the formal aspect, and looking at the essence of the issue, are you currently on the presidential team?

[Shcherban] I think I am on the presidential team a hundred and one percent.... What the presidential team thinks, however, one should ask the team itself....

Scientists Unable To Find Cause of 'Ecological Disaster'

AU2510103295 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 21 Oct 95 p 6

[Report by HOLOS UKRAYINY correspondent Viktor Skrypnyk: "The Mystery of the Dead Stretch. Four Extraordinary Situations Associated With Environmental Pollution Have Hit the Vinnytsya Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Residents of the villages of Shchuryntsi in the Haysyn Rayon and Novoselivka in the Nemyriv Rayon have become witnesses to a horrible sight. Over two months, the Southern Bug reaches (over a distance of about 10 km) have resembled a glistening mirror: About 150 metric tons of fish (according to data from the Ecological Security Administration) floated to the surface. After reaching the Ladyzhynskyy reservoir, the dead "silver" finally sank to bottom.

The initial version of the cause of the mass death of the fish — a fuel oil spill from the Sytkovetskyy Sugar Factory (situated not far from the river) — could not be confirmed, since laboratory tests failed to find remnants of petroleum products in the water. At the same time, specialists of the Ecological Security Administration who worked on the site of the occurrence observed a strange phenomenon.

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"When fish taken out of the river were put into a bucket with clean water," says Olena Yavorska, chief of the Ecological Security Administration, "they... came back to life."

Laboratory tests confirmed the assumption of the ecologists: The fish died from a lack of oxygen in the water. However, the substance that had "suffocated" the river and all living things in it could not be determined.

"The equipment available at our laboratory," continued Olena Hryhorivna, "is only capable of determining ordinary contamination. In the given case, we have been confronted with a unique phenomenon. The only thing that can be said is that an organic substance got into the river and neutralized the oxygen there; this substance is heavier than water — fish that live on the riverbed were the first to die: catfish, pike-perch, and pike."

It is not easy for Vinnytsya ecologists to establish the cause of this ecological disaster. This cannot be done on the spot, nor can water samples be taken to Kiev for chemical testing, because the administration has practically no money. Criminologists may help to solve the mystery of the dead stretch — a criminal case was initiated to deal with the situation. In any case, this is a serious occasion to consider the proposal by the Vinnytsya ecologists that a scientific research institute of chemico- analytical specialists be created in our state so that local ecological security administrations could directly cooperate with it.

Unfortunately, the above case is not isolated. For example, during a recent storm that swept over Vinnytsya, the river again got its share of sewage: 12,000 cubic meters of untreated sewage disturbed the water in no time at all. Incidentally, the situation is no better at yet another water artery that runs through the oblast. The purification facilities on a riverbank in the Yampilskyy Rayon have become a time bomb for the Dniester River. Finally, one more ecological calamity that specialists regard as a radiation accident. In Vapnyarka, the local bakery combine's administration decided to bury radioactive instruments that contained sources of ionizing radiation. First, they were placed in a container and then buried... on the territory of the enterprise. Evidence of the loss of control over radioactive substances has also been forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office.

Economic Issues

Inflation Outpaces Official Predictions

MK2510073095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 4

[Unattributed AEN report: "Forecasts Do Not Come True"]

[FBIS Translated Text] September in Ukraine was remarkable for an inflation rate of more than 14 percent, a record for recent months. According to forecasts by Ukrainian Deputy Premier Anatoliy Kinakh, the inflation rate was not to exceed 6 or 7 percent. Ukraine's government earlier forecast totally different figures: October - 3.7 percent, November - 2.8 percent, December - 1.9 percent. In October, prices started to creep up. The reason is not so much that producers and entrepreneurs are incorporating inflationary expectations in prices. Ukraine's government hiked, effective 1 September, the cost to enterprises of electricity by 13 percent and the cost of gas by 1 percent. Naturally, these percentages are going to raise the cost of products. Independent experts believe that the prices of Ukrainian goods may reach twice the world level by year's end.

Deputy Minister Asserts Adherence to Economic Reforms

LD2510112095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0945 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The negative processes which affected the last two months cannot be considered a departure from economic reforms. The fall in the exchange rate in August and the increase in inflation in September were caused by some unhealthy discussions about the possibility of confiscatory reforms in Ukraine and by a sudden adjustment to the reform policy. There were no monetarist reasons for this. This view was expressed by Viktor Pynzenyk, Ukraine's deputy prime minister for issues of economic reform during a meeting with Netherlands Finance Minister Gert Zalm on 25 October.

In his opinion, the increase in inflation and the fall in Ukraine's exchange rate was caused mainly by the administrative increase in prices for food and non-food products, and housing and utilities which amounted to 25.6 percent in the general inflation index.

According to Viktor Pynzenyk, in September the wage level fell for the first time this year (at a time when it rose by 18 percent in the first eight months of 1995) and capital began to flow out.

The deputy prime minister said that at present, Ukraine is fulfilling the basic requirements of the International

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Monetary Fund as demonstrated by the fact that it has received the third tranche of the stand-by credit. However, large state enterprises needs to be reconstructed and a clear system of targeted social assistance ought to be set up.

State of Ukraine's Mining Industry Detailed

WS2410142295 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2038 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Report by Liudmyla Pekar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ukraine is now one of the world's leading states in mineral raw material mining.

More than 7,500 deposits and nearly 90 kinds of minerals are found and estimated to be in Ukraine, according to the State Geology Committee.

"Between 1990-1994, reconnaissance, extraction and use of mineral raw materials was immediately or secondarily connected to 48 percent of Ukraine's industrial potential," said Oleksandr Zaritsky, deputy chairman of the State Geology Committee.

In addition, 20 percent of the country's labor sources and 25 percent of the national income is related to mining, according to the committee.

Kaolin, bromine, sulfur, manganese, iron, titanium ore, zirconium ore, glass minerals, rock salt, mineral paints, non-iron metallurgical raw materials and facing stones are the most important export items. But Ukraine's exporting abilities are much larger, including the rarer elements beryllium, lithium and scandium. The number of prospected iron ores depositories in Ukraine make up about 29 billion tons, according to Zaritsky. Magnetic quartzite, which contains extractable iron and silica, is important for industrial uses. The Bilozersk and Krivy Rig deposits have high concentrates of the metals. Magnetic quartzite of the Kremenchuk and Pryasov mountain mines have concentrates of 63-72 percent iron extracted through magnetic separation, according to Zaritsky. The superconcentrate with the highest content of iron and the lowest content of less than 1 percent can be extracted in the Priazov region from the Mariupil, Kuksun and Vasyn deposits. Their total reserve makes up about 900 million tons. These concentrates can be used in electric metallurgy and powder metallurgy. Technical conditions for extracting the ores are quite favorable and sea harbors are not far from the deposits.

Ukrainian metallurgical plants smelted about 70 percent iron a day, the rest of the ore was exported to the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Austria and Italy, according to the committee.

After South Africa's mines, the largest manganese ore deposit in the world is in Ukraine, a mine that produces 2.3 billion tons; 85 percent of the deposits are carbonate, the rest of them are oxide.

"The last ones are extracted intensively, the first ones make up the potential for investments," said Zaritsky. After concentrating the ore, it is possible to get concentrates containing 45 percent manganese and 0.22 percent phosphorus, said Zaritsky.

Ukrainian technologists envisioned a set of measures that will increase content of manganese in the concentrate by up to 6 percent and reduce the content of silica by 5-9 percent. There are also great possibilities for special enterprises with manganese alloy producing, according to the committee.

The Volnohorsk deposit in the Dnepropetrovsk region was the origin for 95 percent titanium and 100 percent zirconium in the USSR.

"There are some perspectives that grow their raw material base at the expense of both main and extended deposits. As a result of structural changes within the industry of the USSR, most deposits are not exploited," according to Zaritsky.

Minister Interviewed on State of Coal Industry

WS2410142595 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2038 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Interview with Ukrainian Coal Industry Minister Viktor Poltavets by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; first three paragraphs are INTELNEWS introduction; from the "Economic Review" feature]

[Transcribed Text] Probably the question most Ukrainians want to know about the coal mining industry is how cold the government is going allow this winter to be. Coal supplies are low enough to threaten the country with freezing radiators. But for miners, it's been a long time since they felt any comfort from the government.

Viktor Poltavets said the government needs to re-direct money spent on other domestic energy industries to coal mining. "Ukrainian industry must be oriented towards our domestic sources," he said.

That, of course, costs money, which Ukraine does not have. What the country does have is many angry, unpaid miners.

[ECONOMIC REVIEW] What is the state of Ukraine's coal industry?

[Poltavets] As our young state is now in such a deep economic crisis, so is the coal industry. Industrial power

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were used utterly. Fuel producing plans are not fulfilled at all. Daily, 15,600 tons of fuel is wasted.

Slow preparation is responsible to a great extent for decreasing coal extraction. Thus, in the beginning of August, 473 kilometers of main mining extraction was made in the shafts.

It does not seem to be too little but the program on mining industry development forecasted 108 kilometers more to be extracted. As a result, fewer longwall faces were allotted.

Besides, every face gave about 249 tons of coal this year, which makes 39 tons less than the planned level of last year. The fall in extraction can be explained by the financial measurement of new cleansing faces preparation at many enterprises simply being impossible. Because of this, the loading growth for those longwalls is the only way to save both the branch and the Ukrainian economy in general.

Regretfully, constant non-payments and the current turnover means absence struck the economic branch a lot. Salaries have been delayed, meaning the pensioner foundation has not been transferred and the debts for disabled payments have been growing.

All this caused increased social strain; 40,000 employees left their places of work last year, 53,400 employees left in the first half of this year, among them 14,100 worked in the purifying face and 8,600 worked in drifting and shaft sinking.

It is perfectly clear that such a branch can decline in general. If so, determinate changes for good are necessary.

We have to provide the work concentration at the most prepared depositories to shorten mining and transport communication as much as possible to improve placing of working and engineer-technical personnel.

It is also necessary to improve such an important index, including engine exploitation time efficiency. The economic services work at the producing joint companies and in the shafts must be reorganized.

[ECONOMIC REVIEW] Are you satisfied as a Coal Industry Minister with the ideology and the economic politics taking place in the Ukrainian energy fuel complex?

[Poltavets] No way! Ukraine as an economic system makes up an organic totality of the interdependent and, besides, power-consuming industrial branches, such as metallurgical, engine-building, mine-building and others.

They are joined by the transport, agriculture sphere, housing and communal services. All this demands energy supply. However, 97 percent of the organic energy fuel in Ukraine is represented by coal, yet the energy fuel balance of our state is still directed to natural gas and oil produce for some reason. Today, Ukrainian consumer sources make up only 40 percent. The coal part in it is the biggest because the gas takes only 2 percent and the Ukrainian oil only 8 percent.

All the highly-developed countries of the world direct their industry towards their domestic sources. To take the United States, for example. They extract 900 million tons of coal a year and consume 800 million by themselves. 700 million is used at power stations.

Australia, Poland, Denmark, Slovakia and many others also develop their energy industry in the same way. Direction for mined hard fuel is supposed to become not only the priority in state politics in Ukraine but to bring politics into life.

To our great regret, we don't see any resolute actions here. Especially obvious is that it can be retraced in the energy fuel program realization that was created for up to 2005.

Only KBV 4 billion was subsidized for the "Wuhillia" (Coal) program instead of KBV 103 billion. Almost all the shaft building and working shafts reconstruction was suspended. Not having changed the state, we can loose in the nearest future 75,000 shaft-builders, who were the "Golden Foundation" of this industrial branch.

Thus, we have to say that Ukraine desperately needs a strict, unfailing program based on using domestic coal.

[ECONOMIC REVIEW] The state must take care of the coal industry but nowadays it is such a situation that the miners mostly have to take care of themselves.

[Poltavets] A whole number of measures were taken directed at eliminating the crisis, among them was closing the 19 least productive shafts and one open-pit mine. Material and working expenses are concentrated on the three starting objects that will give 800,000 tons of industrial coal-mined fuel.

The reconstruction of the 26 shafts is being carried out at the moment. Yet the main horizons of coal mining are seen by the miners in radical shaft foundations renovation in the branch supported by the state.

I don't beg for miners' mercy. Our branch is under state subsidy in almost all countries. So, it is not a great surprise that in Great Britain, France and Germany the coal industry is a state property. Thus, we have to understand that in taking care of a miner, Ukraine is taking care of herself.

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Well, some words about what the miners do for their branch by themselves. They have great traditions, which are necessary to remember nowadays. We bend down before Olexiy Stakhanov's exploit, who, maximizing his working time, extracted 102 tons of coal per shift 60 years ago. In 1970 the working group under the leadership of Ivan Strelchenko extracted with the help of a 25-52 combine a million tons of coal a month.

At the Krasnolymanska shaft, Volodymir Ihnatiev's group extracted 12,013 tons of fuel a day, showing the great capacity of the previous-generation engines.

It is also worthy saying that now, when the economic crisis keeps restraining most industrial branches, there are still some groups strong enough to remain firmly established. Among them the Donbas shaft administration, Krasnolymanska, Dobropilska, Zoria, Luhansk Ukraine, named after Vahrushev, Ternivska and other shafts.

[ECONOMIC REVIEW] Shall we be provided with coal this winter?

[Poltavets] We keep on doing all possible things to provide the people's economy with fuel. The situation is changing for good little by little. The state reckons its debts for miners. We start working for new perspectives. The miners cannot ignore them — they need hope.

Kiev Expects Enough Gas, Complains of Oil Crunch

MK2510064295 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine To Have Enough Gas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian debt for Russian gas was $198 million — and for Turkmen gas, $48 million — as of 1 October, Vasiliy Yevtukhov, deputy prime minister in charge of the fuel and energy sector, said at a meeting of the Ukrainian president's Council of Regions. He described the state of the Ukrainian fuel and energy sector's preparation for the winter as "difficult, but not hopeless." Provided that interstate agreements are complied with, Ukraine's needs for natural gas will be fully satisfied, Yevtukhov said. At the same time, he said that a tense situation has come about regarding the country's supply of oil products because of a reduction in oil deliveries.

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Belarus

Deputy on Participation in NATO Conference

WS2410144995 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 2

[Interview with Leanid Privalaw, deputy chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Commission for National Security, Defense, and Fighting Organized Crime, by Lieutenant Colonel Alyaksey Bezvyaselny: "We Went to Brussels To Gain Experience, Not To Beg;" place and date not given— first three paragraphs are VO SLAVU RODINY introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **As was already reported in the press, the conference "Legislation and Armed Forces in Democratic States," organized by the U.S. mission at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, took place on 14 and 15 September. There were also parliamentary representatives of other states invited to the conference.**

The Republic of Belarus was represented at this international forum by a delegation consisting of Leanid Pryvalaw, deputy chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Commission for National Security, Defense, and Fighting Organized Crime, and Colonel Barys Bikinin, deputy of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet of the 13th convocation.

The head of the Belarusian delegation, Leanid Pryvalaw, answers questions from our correspondent.

[Bezvyaselny] Leanid Pyatrovich, what are your basic impressions following your visit to the NATO headquarters. It seems to me that you have already been there before.

[Pryvalaw] You are right, during the five years of my work in the Supreme Soviet of the 12th convocation, I more than once participated in various high-profile international conferences, including those organized in Brussels under the auspices of NATO. Incidentally, an analogous issue was recently discussed at a conference in Hermesch (FRG), in which I participated as a member of the Belarusian delegation.

[Bezvyaselny] It is interesting to know what influenced the current composition of the Belarusian delegation to Brussels, as well as to know who was represented at the conference.

[Pryvalaw] It seems to me that the participation of deputies from the old and new Supreme Soviet in the international conference is quite a symbolic event, implying both the exchange of experience and the succession of generations. Therefore, the participation of Colonel Barys Bikinin — the only (as of today) military deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the 13th convocation — in the work of our delegation was quite natural.

Now about the participants in the Brussels conference, which was a rather high-ranking event. Aside from NATO members, the conference was attended by virtually all former socialist states of Europe (Albania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Romania, Poland) and the CIS, except for Russia, although it was also officially invited by the organizers. We could only guess why Russia acted in this way.

[Bezvyaselny] There were rumors that our delegation had problems in Brussels, too....

[Pryvalaw] There was one such event during our visit. It was connected with an unexpected appearance of a "third man" in the Belarusian delegation. Just imagine, there were only two of us — I and Colonel Bikinin — legalizing our documents, packing, and flying to Brussels, but when it came to our accreditation in Brussels, we saw one more name on the list of participants in the conference....

[Bezvyaselny] Who was this lucky man? How did he get there?

[Pryvalaw] This was Belarusian journalist Pavel Sheremet [BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA chief editor], who was formerly known to the public as the host of the "Prospekt" television program. As it turned out later, he was invited to Brussels by NATO and even spent the first day of the conference at NATO headquarters, separately from all other participants. I cannot say exactly how he managed to cut his way into this organization and what he was doing there; we had an impression that Sheremet did not have a perfect command of English; therefore, without outside assistance (including an interpreter) he could hardly get along.

We were deeply struck with Bikinin by two other facts connected with this democratic journalist's presence in the "composition" of our delegation. The first fact is connected with a spontaneous speech made by Sheremet to foreign representatives during a recess, in which he quite negatively assessed the events taking place in Belarus and the policy of transformations undertaken by the presidential administration. Close attention was paid to him by people, and it might appear to everybody that this young man had been officially charged by someone to present similar assessments. In short, I had to interfere to bring the journalist to reason and "cut down" his oratory fervor.

The most interesting event took place at the end when organizers of the conference began persistently looking for the Belarusian journalist. For what purpose, how

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do you think? You will never guess: To give $200, namely to Pavel Sheremet. What for? Who knows? He supposedly deserved the money....

[Bezvyaselny] How urgent was the topic of the conference?

[Pryvalaw] This time, general attention was focused on the following issues: the civilian-military relationship; state control over the fulfillment of the military budget and its implementation; mutual relations between parliament, government, and armed forces. It needs to be noted that these problems are rather particular and, in contrast to the United States and European countries, are less characteristic of Belarus.

[Bezvyaselny] Why?

[Pryvalaw] You see, there appear no special disagreements between civilians and representatives of the military department in our Republic. As for the United States, for example, these problems are tackled by special Senate committees. Another matter is the issue of establishing control over the military budget and its implementation. This problem, of course, was and still is a very urgent issue for young independent states, republics of the former USSR.

[Bezvyaselny] In your opinion, what are the specific aspects of this issue?

[Pryvalaw] We must take into account that Belarus has existed as a sovereign state in the international arena for only five years. Therefore, all the legislative basis (including laws on the formation of our Armed Forces) was worked out by the Supreme Soviet of the 12th convocation virtually from scratch. We cannot imitate the West, either. Let us take, for example, the issue of the military budget, which cannot be written off.

[Bezvyaselny] Could you explain your view in more detail?

[Pryvalaw] The formation of state budget is a very complex process; its full "layout" would take too much time and space in a newspaper. Therefore, I restrict myself to short, basic explanations.

It is no secret that while planning the budget, our state is obliged to earmark great sums every year for dealing with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, since Belarus has possibly suffered more than other USSR republics in this respect. The next aspect is connected with the necessity to fulfill the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty signed in Paris as early as 1990.

Many cannot simply realize how big material resources are required to do this. Hence, it is no wonder that a year ago President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka resolved to temporarily suspend this costly process, which is beyond Belarus' strength.

[Bezvyaselny] But what about the fulfillment of our international obligations? The image of our country has surely sank due to this....

[Pryvalaw] I cannot agree with you. Incidentally, Deputy Privalaw supported the suspension of the destroying of conventional weapons in Belarus from the very beginning. And here is why. First, the suspension was actually caused by serious economic difficulties, not by our unwillingness to comply with the adopted international agreements.

Second, as you may remember, these agreements were signed by the Soviet Union, while Belarus joined them as a successor to the Soviet Union along with other USSR republics. Thus, are the resulting difficulties a matter of only our concern? I think that many Western countries (primarily the United States and the FRG) could decidedly render us more substantial assistance in the task of destroying conventional weapons. Otherwise, this assistance should not have been proposed for us. I have in mind the Nunn-Lugar program, the authors initially supported their program vigorously and gained substantial subsidies in the Senate....

By the way, the Belarusian president recently announced in the press the resumption of the destroying of conventional weapons in our country.

I would like to stress that we were taking part in similar international conferences not to beg, but primarily to gain advanced experience of other countries. We do not need anyone's didactic lectures!

Deputy Foreign Minister on Job, CIS, Russia

WS2410142695 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 20 Oct 95 p 2

[Interview with newly appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Antanovich, by Yuras Lyashkevich; place and date not given: "I Do Not Share the Optimism of Those Who Predict a Rapid Economic Stabilization" — first paragraph is ZVYAZDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] We talked to Ivan Antanovich, former chief of the "Belinformprognoz" [Belarusian Informational Preview] agency, four days after his appointment to the post of deputy foreign minister by virtue of President Lukashenka's edict. At that time, my interlocutor did not even know what tier of issues he would supervise in the ministry,but he agreed to hold an interview with ZVYAZDA (and, incidentally, with no other newspaper) only because that was his last opportunity to express personal views, unrestrained

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by public and diplomatic activities. "In the future I am going to advocate solely the official standpoint, even if I have personal opinions. This is normal; this is part of a state official's responsibility." Therefore, taking advantage of the opportunity, I could not help asking Ivan Antanovich why he, an active member of [former Prime Minister] Kebich's election team who had a rather critical attitude toward the current president, had been given a post in the new government, and thus in the team of Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

[Antanovich] When I took part in Vyachaslaw Kebich's election campaign, people did not pay attention to something I often reiterated: "I am a law-abiding citizen." I said that I would cooperate with legally elected authorities. Therefore, despite the fact that I "fought" for my candidate, I could have cooperated with the winner, given that he was the legally elected president. If Lukashenka had invited me, I would have readily joined him. On the other hand, the president had been in no hurry to invite me for his own reasons. Therefore, after I was invited I did not see any moral or political incongruity. The kind of policy currently pursued by the president coincides with my conceptual approaches. So far, an objective assessment of realities has prevailed in all Lukashenka's actions, and I can see his sincere desire to improve the situation. For me it was both an honor and my duty to accept the hospitable invitation, given that we all want to achieve well-being in Belarus.

[Lyashkevich] At the same time, the president keeps rejecting his former supporters. I mean the recent replacement of [Presidential Administration Head] Sinitsyn and [Presidential Control Serice Head] Dalhalyow.

[Antanovich] I would deem that a normal phenomenon. Despite everything people say, a democratic system is being established in Belarus, although that process is going with great difficulty. A variety of opinions expressed during elections, but accord with the president is the first condition of a democratic system. Another condition is the rotation of officials. There will be no more guarantees that officials will spend 20 years at their posts. The president is looking closer at his retinue, invites new people, makes changes, and so on. This is a permanent component of democratic rule. Therefore, there are two different aspects in the fact that two people from Lukashenka's team — the president's closest assistants and supporters — have been transferred to the Cabinet of Ministers. They have undergone some training in the Presidential Administration and are going to continue their cause in the government. This does not mean that Lukashenka is pushing aside his assistants. For the latter this amounts to a promotion. Lukashenka did not declare them enemies of the people or strip them of titles. In general, the more often the presidents rotates officials, the better, given that the executive hierarchy is still very rigid in Belarus, and it can be made more flexible solely by a constant rotation of officials in all directions — horizontal and vertical. Many people should be thrown out of the "vertical." I believe that this will happen sooner or later. Of course, new people, too, should be attracted, but this is a more complicated task.

[Lyashkevich] What are your first impressions of the new job?

[Antanovich] I was pleasantly surprised by the makeup of the Foreign Ministry. There are young and very talented deputy ministers who speak foreign languages and an equally young minister who, too, speaks several languages and has an extraordinary understanding of the situation. Why is this so striking? Because quite recently command of even one foreign language was considered a great asset.

People often have a superficial understanding of the diplomatic job, promoted by our television cameramen who usually show diplomats with glasses of champagne in their hands. However, those are rare festive moments behind which there is unbelievably strenuous work in different fields, a huge flow of information, and a lot of organizational measures. In fact, this is a hard and dirty job.

[Lyashkevich] Have you had a chance to speak English to the foreign minister?

[Antanovich] I have. I hope that there will be more occasions, although we both fluently speak Russian and Belarusian. The minister always speaks Belarusian at the sessions of the Foreign Ministry Board and I would like to point out that this works out well.

[Lyashkevich] I recently talked to former Belarusian Ambassador to Poland Heorhiy Tarazevich. When we discussed our state's foreign policy, Tarazevich spoke rather critically about it and said that the Foreign Ministry is being changed from a transmitter of ideas to their generator. How would you assess our foreign policy?

[Antanovich] I read that interview and a couple of others given by Tarazevich after his return from Poland. All in all, I do not quite understand why the significance of certain diplomats is overestimated. Despite the fact that they have only worked abroad for three-five months, they are presented by our media as great experts in diplomatic issues. One should have a deeper understanding of the nature of Belarus's independent policy. This policy has been pursued for 50 years now. Belarus was one of the founders of the United Nations. It has

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been represented in a number of international organizations. It is true that our status in those organizations was limited by the constitution, but nevertheless our diplomats worked and gained experience there. In this way we have established a very strong and proficient diplomatic corps. Even presuming that Belarusian writer Vasil Bykaw was right saying that independence unexpectedly fell on Belarus, within the recent two- three years our Republic has managed to develop a system of diplomatic relations and establish missions abroad, and the leading foreign states have missions in Belarus. Our state has overcome untold hardships. Look what a courageous and noble step Belarus made by renouncing its nuclear status and proclaiming its striving for neutrality. Is this a bad foreign policy course? Therefore, it would be unjust to say that Belarus does not have a foreign policy of its own. Much should be done indeed to make this policy fully serve the interests of national security and well-being, primarily economic well-being. Diplomats, too, must contribute to the latter, for instance by acquiring information on the situation on foreign markets, on interest displayed by other states and by assisting economists in keeping abreast with the international situation.

[Lyashkevich] The sad incident with the hot-air balloon shot down over Belarus probably did not contribute to improving Belarus's image on the international arena?

[Antanovich] That incident was tragic rather than simply sad. I would say that in that situation two directions of the state's activities collided. People were on an alert duty and reacted in line with their instructions, given that they did not have appropriate information. We cannot blame them for anything. This was a tragedy produced by the lack of experience, illiteracy, and insufficient coordination of activities between us and the international organization that had organized the air balloon competition. That tragedy was a product of the past, which had been characterized by the lack of trust in other nations and in all of a foreign origin, as well as by belief that whoever came from abroad had only bad intentions. I am grateful to the United States and those officials who came to Belarus for displayed restraint. The commission must draw conclusions and may God help us avoid those kinds of incidents in the future, because they do not help improve our international image. They only give rise to distrust on the part of our neighbors and other foreign states.

[Lyashkevich] Nevertheless, the incident gave grounds to claim that Belarus followed orders issued by Moscow to retaliate against U.S. actions in Bosnia. I think that you have read the article published by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA which was later reprinted by NARODNAYA GAZETA and SVABODA.

[Antanovich] I think that all kinds of assumptions have the right to exist, particularly those made by newspaper observers. People have the right to express their opinions and conjectures. There are a lot of assumptions; however, there is only one truth. I do not quite believe in those kinds of interpretations and I would rather wait until the investigation is completed. There are ways to dig out the truth....

[Lyashkevich] Once we touched upon the issue of relations with Russia, I cannot omit my next question: What is your attitude toward the idea of a Belarusian-Russian confederation which recently has been very actively discussed?

[Antanovich] I have been following that discussion. When the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1990-1991, I actively advocated the establishment of a federation, a genuine one, which would grant equal rights to all member-states. The central administration would have controlled power engineering, communications, defense and finance, given that all those fields constitute a powerful mechanism of control over the situation and of shaping foreign policy. All the rest would have belonged to the [former USSR] republics and all the attributes of sovereignty would have been perfectly observed. However, the ignorance of nationalistic groupings, which acted unanimously and were well-organized, upset those plans. At present, it is impossible to revive the federation concept, given that it envisions a common border, the absence of customs barriers, and the like. By far not all the post-Soviet states are ready for this: the Baltic states will never agree to this; neither will Ukraine nor even Kazakhstan.

Speaking of Caucasian and Middle Asian republics, Azerbaidjan, for instance, believes that it can be the richest country in the region thanks to its Caspian Sea oil deposits. Therefore, we are currently speaking of a confederation. We need it, and our peoples feel this very strongly. We mean a union of states with new political and constitutional structures. I envision an association of states similar to the EU. This means a union of sovereign states with one common legislature holding regular discussions on all the regional problems. This union should probably have a common defense system. It should be admitted that in West Europe it exists in the form of NATO; in our case it would be simply a defense union of sovereign states. Of course, there should be tight economic ties, too, which would help reinstate the former economic system. Incidentally, that system was never destroyed, it merely broke into 15 pieces. Therefore, we should glue together at least 12 of those, and glue them tightly on equality principles, just as has been done in the EU. This is my vision of a confederation. However, I believe that

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this is going to be a very extended process, not only because certain amendments should be introduced to the Constitution, which is a complex intellectual task. The most urgent task faced by the sovereign states is to beef up their defense potential. For instance, I am not sure that Russia is currently able to protect itself from a rapid unexpected military aggression (thank God nobody seems to be threatening Russia). I judge it by its operations in Chechnya. The situation in the Army is evident: corruption, low morale, lack of knowledge and the skill to conduct an antipartisan war.... This gives grounds to think that the situation in other CIS armies is no better.

[Lyashkevich] The Chechen war is perhaps one of the major arguments against the confederation.

[Antanovich] Do you think that we will send our children to fight in Chechnya? Everything will depend on how we formulate the treaty.... We tend to forget that Chechnya is a part of Russia's territory which means that all the Chechen events are Russia's domestic affairs. If a treaty on common defense includes a provision prohibiting the use of member-states' armies to resolve domestic conflicts and envisioning that those armies can only be used to protect member-states' sovereignty and eliminate threats faced by the entire confederation, then all those issues will be removed.

[Lyashkevich] By the way, I think that you are familiar with Boris Yeltsin's edict on Russia's strategic course in relations with CIS countries. Could you comment on it?

[Antanovich] On the one hand, that document made a good impression on me. It justifies Russia's need to form a union with sovereign [CIS] states, including Belarus. The document does not contain a single word about Russia's striving to absorb those states in any way. Russia is simply looking for allies to solidify its position in Europe. The edict has made a great step in that direction. All the tenets of that document only increased my desire to work for the sake of that union, because Russia's stance does not presume domination over other states.

[Lyashkevich] Very recently you headed the great organization called the "Belarusian Informational Preview." Therefore, it would be interesting to hear your forecast of the development of Belarus's political and economic situation.

[Antanovich] I do not share the optimism of those who say that economic hardships will soon be over. In my opinion, if we manage to reinstate certain important ties with Russia and the CIS and reclaim some of the lost markets, two or three years from now our economy may slowly start to exit from the crisis. In that case we would have grounds to believe that by the year 2000 we might feel the first tangible results of reform. Judging by data collected by the "Belarusian Informational Preview" we will be able to overcome the crisis no sooner than five years from now.

At the same time, I am very anxious about the current political crisis. In the past I spoke very warmly about the Supreme Soviet, but I do not like its recent moves. I believe that they are the reason behind the crisis. The constitution envisions the legislature's five-year tenure. The new legislature was elected by 56 percent of citizens. It is incomplete; however, it will be complemented a month from now. Why are the old Supreme Soviet deputies so unwilling to abandon their posts? If new people could start their work in the legislature they would work hard on drafting new laws, despite the fact that they lack a quorum for their adoption at this point. Therefore, I believe that the situation will normalize once the new Supreme Soviet is elected. At the same time, it grieves me that among candidates for people's deputies one sees the faces of those who once lost elections. Those people have no honor and cannot congratulate winners and step aside, as happens in civilized societies. Instead, our losers put the blame on the people who did not come to the polls. They forget that instead of blaming the people they should blame certain politicians who did not deserve trust and support on the part of the people.

Lukashenka Reportedly To Finance Russian Communists

WS2510105595 Minsk MMC in English 0800 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the MMC "Supplement"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Informers from the Party of Communists of Belarus report that the primary purpose of leader of Russian Communist Party Gennadiy Zyuganov's visit to Minsk were consultations with [Belarusian President] Alyaksandr Lukashenka's entourage. The main subject of the talks became possible assistance of the Belarusian president's crew to Russian Communists during the oncoming parliamentary elections. Alyaksandr Lukashenka was recently working hard on the concept of Russian-Belarusian confederation, thus providing the current Russian leadership with cause to lay off the elections. Willingly or not, the head of Belarus thus works against Russian left forces, who he has established good relationships with long ago. The situation causes discontent among the communists, who wish to have the elections as soon as possible, as in the current situation in Russia their chances to win the majority in the parliament are very good. In compensation,

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Gennadiy Zyuganov was proposed to take part in financing Russian Communist Party pre-electoral campaign. It will be conducted via commercial enterprises, created by Alyaksandr Lukashenka's trustees. According to available information, the amount of funds to be transferred for these purposes is not defined yet. The final adjustment is supposed to take place when Uladzimir Zamyatalin, deputy head of the presidential administration, will be visiting Moscow. Apart from that, Alyaksandr Lukashenka's crew displays interest in assisting financing of pre-electoral activities of the Congress of Russian Communities. In connection with this, relationships are being established with General Aleksandr Lebed entourage.

Moldova

Snegur Makes Speech at UNGA Anniversary Session

AU2410184295 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1944 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, October 23 (INFOTAG) — Moldovan President Mircea Snegur is taking part in the jubilee celebrations in New York dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Snegur had a meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Speaking at the opening of the jubilee session of the UN General Assembly, the Moldovan president stressed the important role this international organization plays in establishing the new system of world-wide political and economic relations. He believes that the international law should be reinforced by developing the concept of sovereignty, statehood, self-determination, and separatism.

"This would allow to lay the foundation of the international law of the 21st century and promote overcoming explosive situations which are often created artificially and are sometimes inspired and backed from outside, particularly situations around national minorities," Snegur said.

The Moldovan president has highly praised the assistance programs rendered to the republic by the United Nations, and expressed hope that, with United Nations' help Moldova will succeed in building a democratic and prosperous country — independent and territorially integral, without foreign military bases on its land.

Mircea Snegur had a meeting with the NIS [Newly Independent States] chief coordinator in the U.S. State Department, James Collins. The head of state has described the situation in Moldova as a stable one, and emphasized the economic significance of privatization, especially in agriculture, and of the assistance rendered by international financial agencies and developed countries, particularly the United States.

Snegur has restated Moldova's firm intention to settle the Dniester dispute peacefully, and pointed out that Tiraspol's position remains without any changes. He expressed concern that during the year that passed since the Moldovan-Russian Army Withdrawal Agreement had been signed, the document remained non- ratified by the Russian State Duma.

James Collins confirmed that the United States will back the democratic and economic transformations in Moldova both bilaterally and in the frameworks of international organizations.

Dismissed Military Leader Files Lawsuit Against Grachev

LD2410203695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TIRASPOL, Oct 24 (Interfax) - Former commander of the Tiraspol military garrison (in Transdniestria, Moldova) Colonel Mikhail Bergman has filed a law suit against Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. Bergman filed the suit at the military tribunal of the Moscow military district.

Defense Minister Grachev last weekend dismissed Colonel Bergman from the army. The order was read out to him by an official of the Transdniestrian military contingent's command.

Bergman is currently in Tiraspol and is resigning his office to acting commander of the Tiraspol military garrison.

"I believe that my dismissal is illegal. It is not accidental that the Defence Minister's order was read out to me and I had no chance to see it myself. So I appealed to the military tribunal asking it to settle the case in keeping with the law," Colonel Bergman said in an interview.

Opposition Supports Striking Students

LD2410172495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 24 Oct 95

[By Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, October 24 (Itar-Tass) — Moldovan opposition parties have today declared their support to the striking Chisinau students, who have again staged demonstrations here, paralysing the city's traffic. Addressing the students, leader of the Democratic Forces Party Valeriy Matei accused the Andrei Sangheli government of "deliberately transferring Moldovan property to Russia". The head of this largest

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opposition party said that the opposition forces backed the students' demand for the cabinet's resignation.

More than ten thousand strikers, chanting "We're for the Romanian language", "Down with the Agrarians" thronged the square opposite Government House at noon today.

Student manifestations were resumed last week after a 5-month moratorium. Their leaders claim that the authorities have not fulfilled their demands to indicate in the Constitution that the country's state language is Romanian, not Moldovan, and to improve the financial standing of instructors and students. Now they call for the cabinet's resignation. This is their main demand today. The government has replied that "the accusations of the strikers are groundless, because most of the demands, relating to financial matters, were fulfilled". Assessing the situation, several Moldavian politicians have pointed out that the "striking students are merely tools in a political gamble". Leader of the Social-Democratic Party Anatoliy Taran, for instance, said that "the current student disorders are simply a reflection of the aggravating struggle among leaders of different governing structures in Moldova — the president, on the one hand, and the parliament and government — on the other".

Meeting the demand of striking students, President Mircea Snegur moved in the parliament to amend the Constitution. However, his initiative was not approved by the parliamentary majority, which backs Premier Andrei Sangheli's ruling party. In reply, it is noted here, Snegur "banged the door" on the Agrarian Party, which he joined after winning last year's parliamentary elections, and formed his own pro-Presidential Party of Revival and Concord. The Moldavian press assessed this step as the beginning of a struggle for the presidency, which was started more than a year before the next presidential elections by Mircea Snegur, Parliament Speaker Petr Luchinskiy, and Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli.

Official: Bessarabian Church Causes 'Permanent Tension'

AU2310130195 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 21 Oct 95

["Interview with Gheorghe Armasu, head of the State Service for Religions by the Moldovan Government"; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Chisinau 21/10/1995 (BASA-press)

[BASAPRESS] Mr. Armasu, which is in your opinion the essence of the conflict connected with the Bessarabian Metropolitan See and should the state institutions get involved in its settlement?

[Armasu] At the end of 1992, a small group of clergymen headed by Petru Paduraru, Bishop of Balti, divested of the right to hold holy masses for canonical violations, organized an ecclesiastical formation calling it the Bessarabian Metropolitan See and requested the government to recognize it. According to Art. 14 of the Law on religions passed May 24, 1992, the government is the one to recognize the statutes of religious communities. The statute of the Orthodox religion represented by the Moldovan Metropolitan See was recognized through Governmental Decision No. 719 of February 17, 1993. The Bessarabian Metropolitan See is a splitting factor for the Moldovan Orthodox religion and the legislation does not allow to legalize any schism. According to the Constitution, the government may not interfere in the internal affairs of the church.

[BASAPRESS] Why the government refuses to register the Bessarabian Metropolitan See?

[Armasu] The government recognizes the statutes of religious communities but does not register Metropolitan Sees which are the administrative organs of a church. The group of clergymen called the Bessarabian Metropolitan See, cannot be the successor of the Bessarabian Metropolitan See which operated in 1925-1940. Some of the territory of former Bessarabia is under Ukrainian jurisdiction now and the registration of the Bessarabian Metropolitan See would lead to conflicts between the two states. I would like to add that the illegal activity of this ecclesiastical formation is a factor of permanent tension. Representatives of the Bessarabian Metropolitan See provoke conflicts in various localities affecting the political situation in Moldova.

[BASAPRESS] The Council of Europe recommended Moldova "to settle peacefully the conflict between the Moldovan Orthodox Church and Bessarabian Orthodox Church." Which is in your opinion the non-violent and most correct modality to solve this conflict?

[Armasu] The way in which this amendment is formulated by the Council of Europe contains an inaccuracy — there is only one Orthodox Church in Moldova (except the Russian Orthodox Church of Old Rite). We think the most correct and non-violent solution to this conflict since it is an internal matter of the Orthodox Church is that the Moldovan president address the two big Orthodox Churches — Russian and Romanian — with the mediation of the Constantinople Ecumenical Patriarch and participation of the Moldovan Orthodox Church.

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[BASAPRESS] Bessarabian Metropolitan See representatives said they would contest the Supreme Court Civil College decision (which annulled the Buiucani sector court ruling that the government should recognize and register the Bessarabian Metropolitan See) by petitioning the Moldovan Constitutional Court and Council of Europe. Will you defend Government's position there? And if the Bessarabian Metropolitan See does win what will the government do?

[Armasu] The Christian Democratic Popular Front parliamentary faction has petitioned the Constitutional Court for an alleged violation of Art. 31 of the Moldovan Constitution. Now we have to await the Constitutional Court decision and we'll see what steps the government will take.

[BASAPRESS] Do you think that if the Bessarabian Metropolitan See is recognized confessional peace will be affected? How could the Bessarabian Metropolitan See affect the current state of things?

[Armasu] Of course. The metropolitan see of any church is the administrative organ of a religious community. Two metropolitan sees of a community, two administrative organs of a church — whom will the community obey? [passage omitted] If the statute of the so-called Bessarabian Metropolitan See is recognized, there may be destabilization inside the Orthodox Church.

[BASAPRESS] During the trial, Boris Guzun, Metropolitan See lawyer, said the Moldovan Metropolitan See recognized by the government is not recognized by the Constantinople Holy Synod. What are your comments on that?

[Armasu] Though the Moldovan Metropolitan See has received the autonomy status, it is under the canonical jurisdiction of the Russian Autocephalous Church which is recognized. As to the recognition of the Bessarabian Metropolitan See by Constantinople we can neither confirm it nor deny it. We can only say that the Constantinople Ecumenical Patriarchate does not recognize any schism between autocephalous churches.

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Kazakhstan

Almaty Condemns Tajik Attacks on Russian Border Troops

LD2410182395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1349 GMT 24 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty, 24 Oct — Kazakhstan, an observer state to the inter-Tajik negotiations process, decisively condemns the terrorist acts by militants of the united Tajik opposition that have taken place recently on various sections of the Tajik-Afghan border against servicemen from the Russian Federation border troops and that have led to casualties. This is set out in a statement released by the Kazakh Foreign Ministry today.

This provocation is seen in the republic as planned action by opponents of the peace talks on a settlement of the inter-Tajik problem.

The Kazakh Foreign Ministry also said that it is prepared to aid the process of a political settlement of the situation in Tajikistan, together with the UN mission and all interested parties, and it thinks that a fifth round of inter-Tajik talks on national conciliation needs to be started immediately.

Arms for North Korea Brokered by Singapore-Based Company

LD2510093295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0638 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Yevgeniya Lents]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK October 25 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian Far Eastern customs disclosed new details on the trainload of weapons from Kazakhstan to North Korea which was seized on the Russian-Korean border last Friday [20 October] and said the weapons were shippped by a state-run Kazakh company while the deal was brokered by a Singapore-based firm.

Informed sources in the Far Eastern customs department told Tass on Wednesday that the seized train comprised 17 open platforms and four cargo cars.

It carried, among other weapons, four 100-mm anti-aircraft guns, four radars mounted on the "Ural" cross-country vehicles, four power sources and ammunition. All the weapons were not new.

Deputy head of the Far Eastern customs department Vitaliy Kirsanov also said the train was "crammed with various weapons" and was stopped at the Kraskino checkpoint near the town of Hasan as the accompanying staff had no documents allowing to take the dangerous cargo out.

According to preliminary investigation, the weapons were shipped by the state-owned "Ulan" foreign trade company which represents the Defence ministry of Kazakhstan. It is noteworthy that the Singapore-based "Global Armour Technology Trading Ltd" company acted as a mediator of the deal, possibly, because of solvency problems caused by the huge North Korean foreign debt.

Kirsanov said that investigators filed a report on the incident which was forwarded to Anatoliy Kruglov, the chairman of the Russian State Customs committee, which is to decide the fate of the train with weapons.

Kyrgyzstan

Premier Notes Importance of Relations With PRC

LD2410164495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1206 GMT 24 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marat Abulkhatin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beijing, 24 Oct — Kyrgyzstan attributes great importance to developing and deepening relations with all neighboring countries, especially with China. This was said by Kyrgyz Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov during Sino-Kyrgyz trade and economic talks here today.

Dzhumagulov said trade and economic cooperation betweeen the two countries has been generally dynamic and stable. The sides have already signed 38 intergovernmental agreements regulating frameworks and areas for bilateral cooperation. He said the two governments are paying great attention to strengthening the legal basis for promoting mutual investments. [passage omitted]

Deputies Condemn Zhirinovskiy Remarks in RES PUBLICA

LD2410125195 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0600 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 17 October this year, a statement by the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] faction of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly was published in Kyrgyzstan's RES PUBLICA. This is not the first time Russian deputies have used the pages of this publication to outline their aims of annexation, aims incompatible with the ratified declarations on the independence of CIS countries and with international law. In this period of transition for the entities of the Commonwealth, such political statements by the LDPR leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, are painful to sensible people, both in Russia and other

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countries. The deputies of the Legislative Assembly of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic are correct in stating that Mr. Zhirinovskiy's insulting attacks on the head of the Kyrgyz state and on its constitutional structure are inadmissible, and are regarded as rude interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Kyrgyzstan.

The LDPR leader's actions contradict the UN Charter and the basic principles of Kyrgyz-Russian relations, strengthened by bilateral agreements between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation within the framework of the CIS. Remaining the advocates of democratic norms, which are held sacred in both countries, we call on Russian deputies to give due assessment of their colleague Zhirinovskiy's statement, which has cast doubt on the historical friendship, based on mutual respect, that exists between Kyrgyzstan and Russia.

Deputies of the Legislative Assembly of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted the following resolution:

Resolution on the statement of the deputies of the Legislative Assembly of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Having discussed the statement by the LDPR fraction of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly, published in the RES PUBLICA newspaper on 17 October 1995, the Legislative Assembly of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic resolves:

1. To condemn the statement by the LDPR faction of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and to regard it as interference in the internal affairs of the sovereign state.

2. To adopt the statement by the deputies of the Legislative Assembly of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic and send it to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation with a request for a due assessment to be made. To publish this resolution and the statement by the deputies of the Legislative Assembly of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic in the mass media of the republic.

[Signed] Daniyar Usenov, deputy chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Wants UN Peace Moves on Afghan Crisis

LD2510093995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITED NATIONS, October 25 (Itar-Tass) — "We urge the international community to help quickly restore peace on the long-suffering land of Afghanistan. Not only the constructive participation of the countries of this region, but also effective steps by the United Nations are needed to surmount the Afghan crisis," Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov said on Tuesday, addressing the Jubilee Meeting of the U.N. General Assembly here.

Noting that the problem of universal security was closely linked with that of development, Rakhmanov called for the elaboration of a Comprehensive plan of support to the reforms in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"The discriminatory restrictions still existing in world economy and trade, as well as the practice of conditioning financial and economic aid to countries with a transitional economy does not serve at all the goals of general security. The elaboration by specialised U.N. agencies and international banking and financial organisations of such a Comprehensive plan of support to reforms in CIS countries during the transitional period would substantially accelerate the process of the latter's integration into the world's economy," the Tajik leader noted.

Touching on the problem of peace-making, he stressed: "We hope that the tendency of applying coercive measures during U.N. peace-keeping operations, noticed in recent years, will not develop in the future. Coming out for the consolidation of U.N. actions to ensure peace and stability both in our country and in the region as a whole, we nevertheless believe that the yardsticks of security should be immutable."

Russian Border Post Attacked From Afghan Territory

LD2510092595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0736 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian border post at Basiad, in the area guarded by the Khorog frontier detachment, was kept under fire for almost one hour from the territory of Afghanistan in the evening of October 24. Itar-Tass was told today at the press centre of the command of

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the Russian border guard troops in Tajikistan that small arms were used in the attack on the post. A retaliatory blow was dealt at the enemy positions. There were no casualties among the Russian border guards.

The command of the Russian border guard troops in Tajikistan, officials at the press service stated, is disturbed by the deteriorating situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, primarily in the Pamir direction. Beginning from October, fire was opened on Russian border posts twelve times over, including eleven times from the territory of Afghanistan.

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Azerbaijan

Aliyev's Meeting With President Clinton Reported

NC2410205295 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We begin our newscast with a telephone report from our special correspondent Qulu Muherremov on President Geydar Aliyev's participation in the events marking the UN's 50th anniversary and on his bilateral talks.

[Begin Muherremov recording] The Azerbaijani delegation in New York considers 24 October as a day of very important meetings. In fact, considering their strategic objectives, today's meetings could be included on the list of momentous events in Azerbaijan's political life, as well as a place of importance in President Geydar Aliyev's New York visit.

To begin with, the meeting with Bill Clinton today demonstrated that the ties between these two countries are moving in a desirable direction. Undoubtedly, Azerbaijan's loyalty to its ideals of independence, its considered foreign policy, and its masterful promotion of U.S. national interests in this policy played an important role in this process.

Madeleine Albright, U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN, and U.S. Secretary of Energy O'Leary, who visited Geydar Aliyev at his New York residence for talks yesterday, clearly acknowledged yesterday that Washington is now paying more attention to relations with Azerbaijan. They said the U.S. side is very interested in developing these relations for economic reasons and a number of political reasons.

These same words were repeated two hours earlier today by U.S. President Bill Clinton during his meeting with Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev. The U.S. side's interest in this high-level meeting held at New York's famous Astoria Hotel was obvious from the composition of its delegation. In addition to Bill Clinton; Secretary of State Warren Christopher; Madeleine Albright, U.S. permanent representative to the UN and one of the active organizers of today's meeting; James Collins, coordinator of CIS affairs at the State Department; and State Department Press Secretary (?Blocher) faced the Azerbaijani president across the negotiating table. Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov, State Adviser Vafa Gulizade, Azerbaijan's Permanent Representative to the UN Eldar Guliyev, and Ambassador to the United States Hafiz Pashayev took part in the talks on Azerbaijan's side.

The more than one-hour-long meeting between Bill Clinton and Geydar Aliyev was held behind closed doors. Though the American, Azerbaijani, and Turkish journalists covering the meeting were confronted with strict protocol regulations, they were probably aware of the issues discussed inside.

The officials who addressed the journalists after the meeting confirmed their views to a certain extent. Azerbaijani Ambassador to the United States Hafiz Pashayev told us that basically three issues were discussed at the meeting: Matters relating to the broadening of bilateral cooperation between the United States and Azerbaijan, issues pertaining to the activity of U.S. firms in the oil consortium, and of course ways of resolving the Azerbaijani- Armenia conflict.

Albright told Azerbaijan Television that the Clinton-Aliyev meeting was of great historic importance and that it will soon produce real results. Although a generally positive reply was given to the question of whether this optimism also applies to the resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict, diplomats are not in a hurry to give a concrete reply to the question of whether any decision has been made on this issue. However, the political maneuvers in New York in recent days show that many countries, including the United States and Turkey, have highly intensified their efforts to put an end to the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Before meeting Bill Clinton today, 24 October, the Azerbaijani president met with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan at his UN residence. So far only sketchy information has been given to the press on the results of this talk. Therefore, we will merely say that the sides reiterated their peaceful intentions in this meeting.

However, we can report concrete details of the meeting held between Suleyman Demirel and Ter-Petrosyan in New York last night. After the meeting, the Armenian president spoke to reporters about the impossibility of resuming military operations in Karabakh. Turkish President Suleyman Demirel spoke about the need for the Armenian Armed Forces to withdraw from the occupied Azerbaijani territories.

Of course all these talks are directed towards obtaining concrete results from the policy pursued in recent years. The U.S. papers analyzing these talks, citing diplomats, report and openly write that Armenia must henceforth take into consideration the existing political realities and revise its policy in the region. [end recording]

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Iranian Official Criticized for Remarks on Azerbaijan

NC2410173995 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1250 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ali 'Abdol 'Alizadeh, governor-general of East Azerbaijan, said in an ASSOCIATED PRESS interview that the legitimacy of the Azerbaijani Republic is under question. According to him, all the Azerbaijani regions and provinces have been an integral part of Iran throughout history. Moreover, 'Abdol 'Alizadeh accused the Azerbaijani television of making territorial claims against Iran.

Babek Huseyinoglu, chairman of the Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, in a BBC interview said that 'Ali 'Abdol 'Alizadeh's remarks are fabricated and malicious. He added that Azerbaijani television has never broadcasted any report or program on a territorial claim against Iran. Whereas the Iranian television broadcasts various programs on the Azerbaijani airwaves for one hour every day, but does not reciprocate.

Guliyev: Elections Held for Sake of Future

NC2410151095 Baku TURAN in English 0909 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/24.10.95/TURAN — Yesterday in the Supreme Soviet there was the joint session of the Central Election Commission and the UN observers.

The permanent UN representative in Azerbaijan, Mahmud al-Sa'id, adressed the session. He said during the month the joint group of the OSCE/UN observers has been receiving broad information about the pre-election struggle. Mahmud al-Sa'id noted, according to official data, within several days seven experts of the Central Election Commission have checked approximately 3 million signatures. He doubts as if the experts could have really checked such amount of documents. "I wish the Supreme Court will be objective while considering the complaints", he pointed out.

The UN representative also noted while considering the complaints of the nominees the resolutions are adopted by some individuals from the Central Election Commission and sometimes by a group of persons.

Touching upon falsification of signatures, Mahmud al-Sa'id said there is a world-known practice. "Adopting the resolution that part of signatures are invalid one must prove that", he mentioned. He expressed hope that the Supreme Court will seriously take the complaints of the parties and candidates.

"I also hope that liberal interpretation of the law will be used in the cases without violation of law", Mahmud al-Sa'id noted.

At the end of the session the Parliament speaker Rasul Guliyev said the doubts of Mahmud al-Sa'id about the results of the activities of the experts of the Central Election Commission are groundless. He said "the experts have worked honestly and the results of their check are beyond any doubts". The speaker also said the data about unconscientiousness of the employees of the Central Election Commission are spreaded by the opposition. "They can tell it to you, but not to me", Rasul Guliyev pointed out.

He noted "during consideration of the complaints there will be no exception for the parties and if necessary each signature will be checked", the speaker said.

Addressing the members of the Central Election Commission, Guliyev said they must continue working being not afraid of anybody's opinion. "We must be not afraid that tomorrow we will be accused of conduction of non-democratic elections. We hold elections not to gain the democratic image, but for the sake of the future of the Azeri nation", Rasul Guliyev said.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Says 'Forces of Terror' Stopped UN Visit

LD2410180695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 24 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a message to U.N. secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali for the world body's jubilee, Georgia's leader Eduard Shevardnadze stresses the need for devising mechanisms that would bring U.N. activity in accord with the present day requirements. Such mechanisms should be based on new concepts with an emphasis on international and legal aspects of European and global security.

Shevardnadze wished that the festivities in New York be matched by "a constructive discussion" to be crowned with real transformations in U.N. he hopes to outline his views on this score to Butrus Butrus-Ghali "in the near future."

Recalling the tension in Georgia, Shevardnadze explained the reasons for his decision to cancel the trip to New York. In his opinion, "the forces of terror, training on Georgia, have not laid down arms, and the matter is not in concrete perpetrators, who are paltry, but in rather powerful forces, directing and harboring them."

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For this reason, Shevardnadze writes, "after long deliberations", I have made "a hard" decision "to stay out of the jubilee session in New York."

However, he feels that his action "meets the interests of not only Georgia but of the world community at large" since that country has always been "the most sensitive nerve of Caucasus, the rupture of which means a disaster for Caucasus and for the Black Sea Region as a whole."

Problems With Georgia Extradition Request

LD2410202995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (Interfax) - If the Georgian authorities fail to show Russian law enforcement organs "serious evidence" of the participation of Igor Giorgadze in the assassination attempt on Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze on August 29, his extradition to Georgia will not even be discussed, a Russian Federal Security Service officer told Interfax today.

Igor Giorgadze is a former chief of the Georgian Security Service.

The officer rejected a statement by Chief of Interpol's Georgia Bureau Georgiy Aleksidze that Interpol will take special control of the search for Giorgadze, his detention and extradition. Interpol "is an information-supply structure," the officer said. "It cannot be used to search for Giorgadze and detain him," the officer said.

"Interpol can only request the Russian Interior Ministry or the Federal Security Service to help to search for some person after showing documents which would undoubtedly prove his guilt," the officer said.

"National security agencies and the police must transfer these documents to the Russian Prosecutor General's Office. If the documents are considered as well-founded the Russian Prosecutor's Office can sanction further actions of law enforcement organs for handing the criminal over to the interested party," the officer said.

'Kamikaze' Mission To Kill Shevardnadze Fails

AU2410141295 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 1

[Unidentified report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "One More Attempt on the Life of Eduard Shevardnadze That Did Not Take Place"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have learned of one more attempt on the life of Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze that did not take place. Moreover, in this case, the organizers of the terrorist act planned to use a "human bomb." This news was transmitted by the Georgian television information program "Kvishis Saati" in the evening on 13 October.

The "kamikaze" mission was to have been carried out by a certain Pavle Butskhrikidze. He is accused by the law enforcement agencies of large-scale theft of state property. He turned for protection to Giga Gelashvili, head of the Georgian Rescue Corps [recently abolished; Gelashvili currently under arrest on suspicion of involvement in attempt to kill Shevardnadze on 29 August]. The latter promised to save Butskhrikidze from punishment if he carried out an assignment: He was to approach the head of state wearing a special protective vest and press a button that had been attached to it. The "kamikaze," who did not carry out the mission, was told that there would be a device inside the jacket that would irradiate Shevardnadze and give him leukemia. In point of fact, about 20 km of explosives were packed inside the jacket. The organizers planned to carry out the terrorist act at the Union of Georgia's Citizens congress. According to specialists, hundreds of people could have been killed as a result of the explosion.

Authorities Warn of Attacks on Russian Servicemen

AU2410160295 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 18 Oct 95 p 2

[Statement Issued by the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs, Security Service, Ministry of Defense, and the press centers of the Procurator's Office; place and date not given: "A Halt Will Be Put to All Manner of Destructive Attacks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Republic of Georgia's Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Security Service, and other competent bodies have received information from various reliable sources that certain destructive forces, both from within the country and from outside, are planning to carry out various criminal acts and excesses and destabilize the sociopolitical situation during the period of preparation for the parliamentary and presidential elections. In particular, they intend to provoke various illegal acts of violence against Russian servicemen stationed in our country and the members of their families and, in so doing, replace the process of the warming of relations, rapprochement, and friendship and cooperation with mistrust and confrontation.

These are forces that do not like and are annoyed by the serious successes recently achieved by our country regarding the strengthening of independence and statehood, the restoration of law and order, the broadening of communications, and the resolution of strategic geopolitical problems.

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The Republic of Georgia's Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Security Service, the Ministry of Defense, and the press centers of the republic's Procurator's Office are empowered to state that:

The republic's law enforcement and power bodies will not permit any acts of provocation directed against our country and people by destructive forces from inside or outside the country and, within the framework of the law, will use all the means at their disposal to expose and put a halt to such attacks.

Georgian-Abkhaz Talks Break Down Over Closed Sea Borders

LD2410150795 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1445 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 24 Oct — An IPRINDA correspondent has been told by Ramaz Sichinava, an official representative of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, that talks on the settlement of the Abkhaz conflict were held in Moscow today under Russian mediation. The Georgian side was represented by Georgia's ambassador to Russia, Vazha Lortkipanidze, the Abkhaz side by Gagulia and Jergenia, and the Russian side by Bolshakov, Pastukhov, and Kovalev. The Abkhaz side announced at the talks that it has no authorization from Ardzinba to continue negotiations until the Abkhaz sea border, which has been closed by the Russian border guards, is reopened. After this statement the talks were suspended.

Russian Sea Border Officer Denies Sukhumi Sealed Off

LD2410135195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1159 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — A top Russian Sea Border Forces commander has refuted a report that Russian border guards have "sealed off" Abkhazia's sea frontier. He reported to an Interfax interviewer on Tuesday that due to unceasing violations in that aquatic stretch of CIS frontiers, border guards had been instructed to "strengthen border protection."

He also explained that Russian border troops had been guarding sea frontiers in that area in line with the Russian-Georgian agreement on CIS borders protection.

Earlier, a source in Sukhumi reported that three coastal guard ships have sealed off the Sukhumi harbor, preventing ships there from going to sea.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister on Abkhazia, S. Ossetia

LD2310222495 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Russia's TV program "The Rush Hour" today, Boris Pastukhov, Russian deputy foreign minister, expressed a wide range of views on the Abkhaz issue. He stressed that the adoption by Georgia of the new Constitution reinforced the principle of the country's territorial integrity, despite the fact that South Ossetia and Abkhazia still remained the ethnic conflict zones.

Pastukhov drew attention to the fact that, in accordance with a number of drafts, the Republic of Georgia, when defining the state order, was based on the principle of federalism. However, at the last round of Georgian-Abkhaz talks in Moscow, the Abkhaz side did not even want to discuss the issue.

The Georgian Constitution has been drawn in such a way that it is possible to define the forms according to which South Ossetia and Abkhazia will exist within a single Georgia.

Boris Pastukhov touched on the role of Russian peacekeepers in stopping combat actions in the Abkhaz conflict zone. He said that the war had been stopped and that talks were continuing more or less successfully. Russia's interference in Georgia's internal affairs has been caused by the geopolitical interests of this country, as well as the wish to achieve stability in the whole of the Caucasus region.

Boris Pastukhov stressed that Russia was carrying out the mission of a mediator within the framework of the international regulations and norms set by the United Nations.

Chechen Battalion Formed in Abkhazia

AU2410124795 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 10-11 Oct 95 p 2

["BGI" report: "A New Battalion Has Been Formed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Abkhazian authorities have formed a new battalion composed of Chechen guerrillas in the village of Aradu in Ochamchire rayon. The battalion unites 140 fighters equipped with firearms. These are in the main guerrillas who were wounded while fighting the Russian Federation Army and who were hospitalized in Sukhumi and Gudauta. The battalion has two tanks and one APC at its disposal. It has become known from reliable sources that the battalion is shortly to be transferred to Gali rayon.

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Latvia

Gailis, Slezevicius Discuss Oil Exploration Dispute

LD2410192895 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation with Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius today, Latvian Prime Minister Maris Gailis confirmed that Latvia will not sign any documents with the U.S. Amoco company and will not commence exploiting the oil deposits in the disputed area until a treaty on the sea border has been signed with Lithuania. It should be recalled that last week the Latvian press reported that the government had resolved to sign a contract with the U.S. Amoco company on the exploitation of oil deposits in the Baltic Sea. On 23 October the newspaper BIZNESS BALTIJA reported that Latvian experts are to meet Amoco representatives this week.

An official of the Latvian Power Engineering Ministry has confirmed that such a document is already agreed and prepared for signing. The newspaper DIENA also reported this last weekend. To Lithuania's demand to provide an explanation, the Latvian side replied that the newspaper that published this report is not an official government organ. While presenting the government's review of its activities to journalists today, Prime Minister Gailis also turned to the issue of the oil extraction in the Baltic Sea. Gailis said that Latvia is not intending to extract oil on Lithuanian territory, only its own. The issue of the disputed area will reach a compromise in the near future, said Gailis.

Prime Minister Reviews Outgoing Government's Work

LD2410225095 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the Cabinet of Ministers received a review of the year's work of the government. Addressing journalists, Prime Minister Maris Gailis, though he admitted that during his government's time there were strikes and (?shocks), in general was still satisfied with what the government achieved in the period reflected in the review, namely from August last year to August this year. In his review of the government's achievements, Maris Gailis devoted special attention to the three priorities that his government had regarded as the main ones on coming to power.

[Begin Gailis recording] Number one, the main one was the security of the state and its citizens, and it seems to me that we achieved (?what we set out to do). In any case a feeling of [word indistinct] and prospects has been created, at the Interior Ministry anyway, which is [word indistinct] ever more unflaggingly and effectively combating such undesirable things as crime and so on and so forth. (?The second) priority, education: an education law has been worked out.

The preliminary work has also been done for [words indistinct]. A change of minister has also been experienced, and you also know about the teachers' strike, with the undoubtedly justified demand for raising their wages. There is still very much more to do in the sphere of education, as less than half of the teachers are professionally trained for their job. Of course, demands are demands, and a political settlement with them has to be made. [Words indistinct] situation has developed in the countryside. Here, too, all farmers would have wanted to receive grants, and yet here, too, it seems to me, much greater clarity and prospects have appeared that were not there even a year or two ago. The farmers, too, to a certain extent [word indistinct], and (?to them, too, it seems) that it is possible to work, prospects have appeared. Opportunities to sell their produce have appeared. Greater opportunities for order in the market have appeared. And one section of the decent farm workers (?will decide) what they can do and what they can achieve. But undoubtedly one section of the farmers is not satisfied, as for them this activity, in the form of this assistance, is not being given.

The banking crisis essentially (?affected) the farms, but I think that the government was able to curtail it in relation to the banking crisis, and since that time, similar [words indistinct] I assume that this (?appeared as) one of their biggest problems. [end recording]

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